Dark Horse Comics

OUTLANDERS

3

Johji Manabe

cover art
KEN MACKLIN

lettering and touch-up
WAYNE TRUMAN

introduction
MATTHEW SWEET

collection editor
CHRIS WARNER
LYNN ADAIR

collection designer
HARALD GRAHAM

collection design manager
BRIAN GOGOLIN

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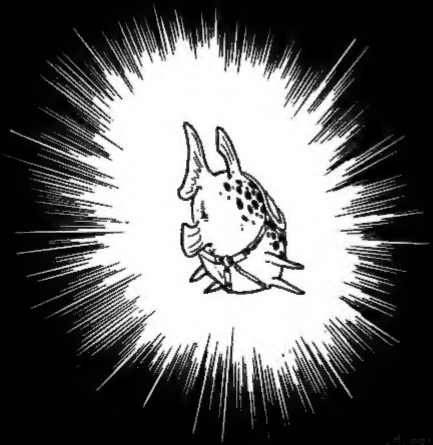
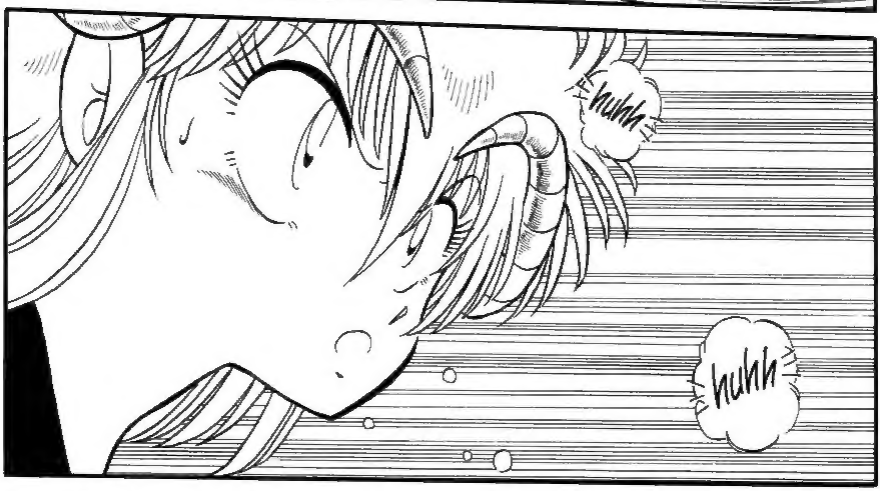


OUTLANDERS™
VOLUME 3

huhh
huhh


huhh
huhh

KAHM!! COME BACK! YOU FORGOT YOUR HAT!
DAMMIT, THEY'LL SEE YOUR HORNS !!
huhh
huhh
huhh

GEEZ...WHAT THE HELL DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING?! SHE YELLS SOMETHING ABOUT HER FRIENDS BEING IN TROUBLE, THEN JUST TAKES OFF!

wheh... THOSE LEGS OF HERS ARE MORE THAN JUST DECORATIVE...
I'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH HER!
huhh
huhh

STRING 'EM UP!!
LET'S SEE THEM KICK !!
KILL THEM! MAKE 'EM INTO SAUSAGES !
SKIN THEM ALIVE !!
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, BUT IT DOES SEEM RATHER UNFORTUNATE...
WAHHH!
MOMMY !!
B-BOSS! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER !

FWUP
UFF!
TETSUYA!
HUHH
HUHH
ARE YOU CRAZY?! THOSE HORNS OF YOURS ARE KINDA OBVIOUS, YOU KNOW!
TETSUYA, LIFT ME UP ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
HUH?
I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE IN THE WAY! COME ON!
OW OW OW! OKAY, OKAY! I'LL DO IT, ALREADY!
umph...
GEE, YOU'RE KINDA...AH... HEAVY, AREN'T YOU?
AW, SHUT UP!!

IT'S... IT'S NAO ?!!
ouch!
NOW WHAT DO I DO! THOSE IDIOTS HAVE GOTTEN THEMSELVES CAPTURED!
THEY'RE ONLY SERVANTS, BUT I CAN'T JUST LET THEM DIE!
WHAK WHAK
OW!
OW!
OW!
SO USE A SPELL!
RIGHT... OF COURSE!
OKAY...

HUH?
KA-BOOM!!
WOW, BOSS! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT!

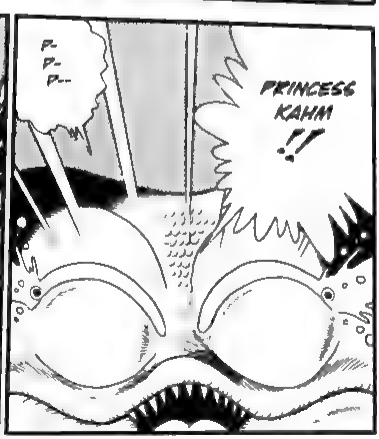
Heh heh heh
KRASHOOM!
KRNG
KRNG
DAMN IT !!
IT'S BULLETPROOF !
RUN FOR IT !!
YAHOO! BOGG, YOU'RE FANTASTIC!
KRASHH
BOOM
BOOM
BAM
DIE, YOU GODDAMN MONSTER !!

GRAAA!!
ARRGHH!
?
HUH ?

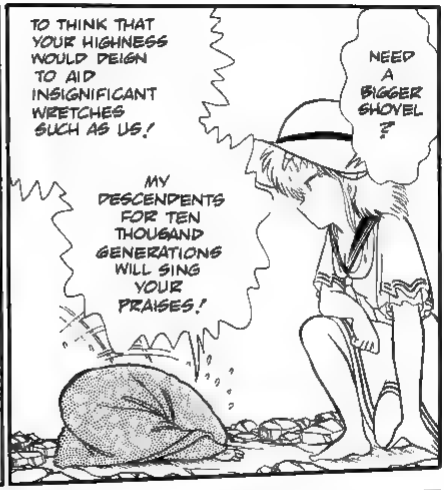
GEE. BOSS. HOW DID YOU DO THAT ?
WELL. ER I.

?
?
?
?

NAO !
WHA ?!


P- P- P--
PRINCESS KAHM !!

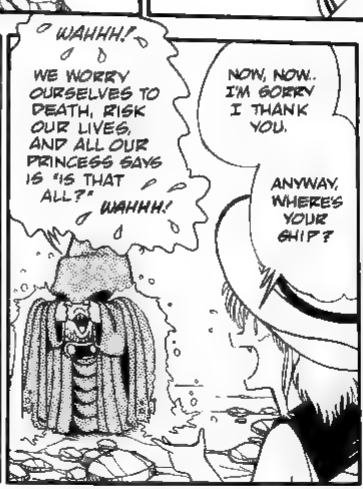
Ahh, WHAT A LOAD OFF OUR MENIAL MINDS TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAFE, PRINCESS!
Heh, heh...
YOU GOT IT.
SO THAT WAS ONE OF THE PRINCESS'S SPELLS ?


TO THINK THAT YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD DEIGN TO AID INSIGNIFICANT WRETCHES SUCH AS US!
NEED A BIGGER SHOVEL ?
MY DESCENDENTS FOR TEN THOUSAND GENERATIONS WILL SING YOUR PRAISES!

YOU ARE CALLED TETSUYA, YES ?
Heh Heh
I FEEL THERE IS MORE THAN MERE CHANCE IN OUR MEETING THIS WAY, YES INDEED..
YEAH, MAYBE...

SAY.. JUST WHAT WERE YOU GUYS DOING DOWN HERE, ANYWAY?

Ahh, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE WERE SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T RETURN THAT WE--
OH, IS THAT ALL ?


WAHHH!
WE WORRY OURSELVES TO DEATH, RISK OUR LIVES, AND ALL OUR PRINCESS SAYS IS "IS THAT ALL?"
WAHHH!
NOW, NOW.. I'M SORRY I THANK YOU.
ANYWAY, WHERE'S YOUR SHIP?

sniff
OH, YES THE SHIP

WELL, IT FLEW *THIS* FAR, AT LEAST. BUT AFTER WE GOT SHOT, WE HAD TO LAND RIGHT AWAY.

AS SOON AS WE TOUCHED DOWN, THE VERMIN LIVING ON THIS PLANET DRAGGED US OUT OF IT AND TORE IT APART...IT WAS AWFUL!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'LL EVER FLY AGAIN...

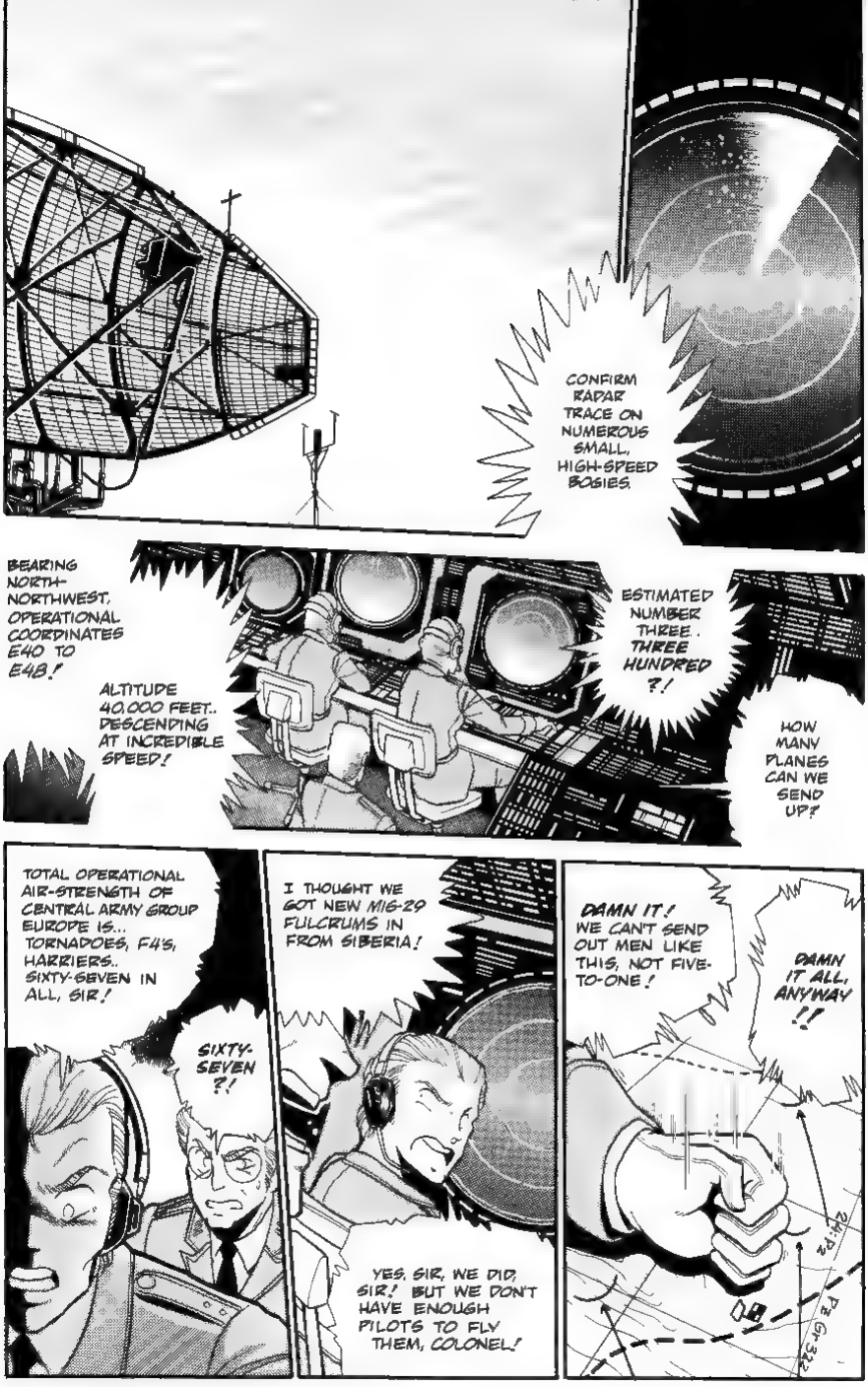
THAT'S FOR SURE..

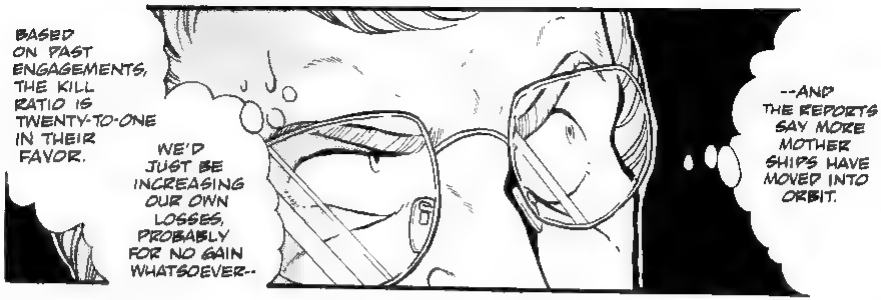
FORTUNATELY, THE COMMUNICATOR IS STILL ALIVE!

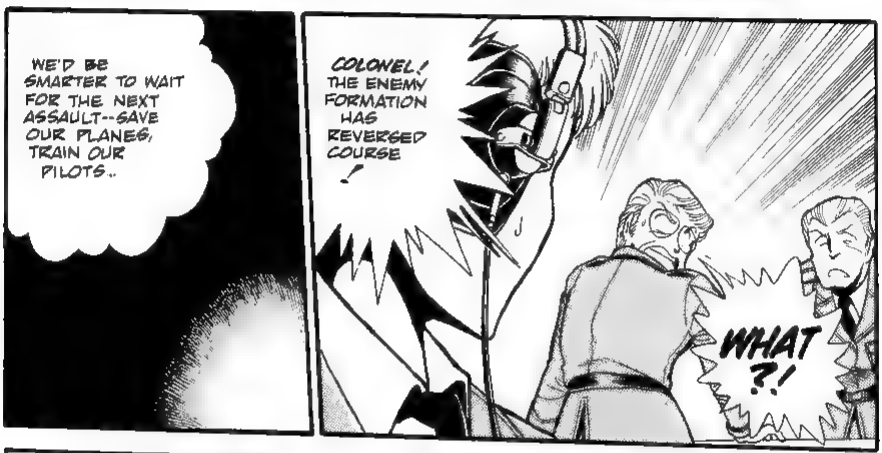
KWEEK KWEEK

GYA H!!

WE CAN USE IT TO SEND AN SOS MESSAGE TO THE FLEET!

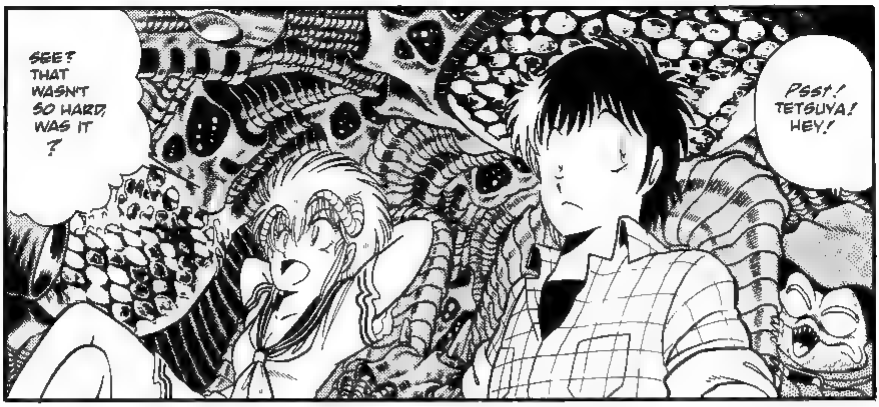

CONFIRM RADAR TRACE ON NUMEROUS SMALL, HIGH-SPEED BOGIES.
BEARING NORTH-NORTHWEST, OPERATIONAL COORDINATES E40 TO E48!
ALTITUDE 40,000 FEET.. DESCENDING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
ESTIMATED NUMBER THREE. THREE HUNDRED ?!
HOW MANY PLANES CAN WE SEND UP?
TOTAL OPERATIONAL AIR-STRENGTH OF CENTRAL ARMY GROUP EUROPE IS... TORNADOES, F4'S, HARRIERS.. SIXTY-SEVEN IN ALL, SIR!
SIXTY-SEVEN ?!
I THOUGHT WE GOT NEW MIG-29 FULCRUMS IN FROM SIBERIA!
YES, SIR, WE DID, SIR! BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PILOTS TO FLY THEM, COLONEL!
DAMN IT! WE CAN'T SEND OUT MEN LIKE THIS, NOT FIVE-TO-ONE!
DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY !!


BASED ON PAST ENGAGEMENTS, THE KILL RATIO IS TWENTY-TO-ONE IN THEIR FAVOR.
WE'D JUST BE INCREASING OUR OWN LOSSES, PROBABLY FOR NO GAIN WHATSOEVER--
--AND THE REPORTS SAY MORE MOTHER SHIPS HAVE MOVED INTO ORBIT.

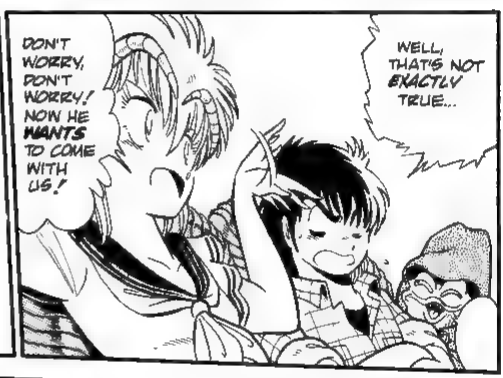

WE'D BE SMARTER TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT ASSAULT--SAVE OUR PLANES, TRAIN OUR PILOTS..
COLONEL! THE ENEMY FORMATION HAS REVERSED COURSE!
WHAT?!

WITHOUT AN ATTACK?! THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
THEY SKIMMED RIGHT DOWN TO GROUND LEVEL, SIR, BUT THEY'RE CLIMBING OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE NOW.
SIR...IT SEEMS TO BE THE SAME AREA THEY PENETRATED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO WITH A SINGLE VEHICLE...THEN AGAIN EARLIER TODAY...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE RECONNAISSANCE TO ME, SIR.
WE'D BETTER NOTIFY GROUP HQ INTEL SECTION.

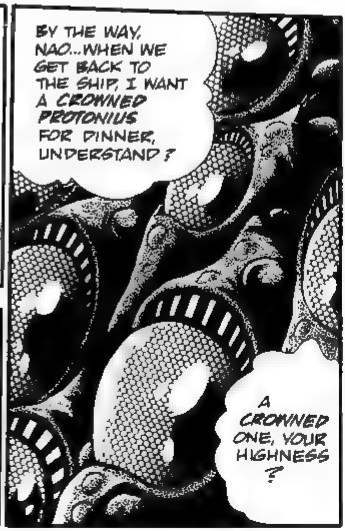
VVN
VVN
VVN


SEE? THAT WASN'T SO HARD, WAS IT ?
PSST! TETSUYA! HEY!

YEAH? WHAT'S UP?
ARE YOU COMING BACK TO THE SHIP WITH US ?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO STAY ON THE SACRED PLANET?

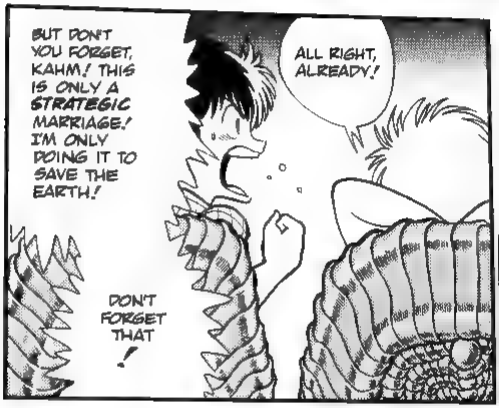

DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY! NOW HE WANTS TO COME WITH US!
WELL, THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE...

HUH! WELL, YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY, ANYHOW.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU DRAGGED ME ON BOARD!


BY THE WAY, NAO...WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE SHIP, I WANT A CROWNED PROTONIUS FOR DINNER, UNDERSTAND?
A CROWNED ONE, YOUR HIGHNESS ?

WELL, YEAH... MAYBE... HEH HEH.
.....
.....

"B-BUT THOSE ARE ONLY EATEN ON THE MOST AUSPICIOUS OF OCCASIONS..!"
"EXACTLY! JUST DO AS I BID, NAO!"
COULD IT BE THE FACT THAT TETSUYA DECIDED TO RETURN WITH HER ?
BOSS! THAT MUST BE IT! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO GIRLS WHEN THEY CAN FINALLY MAKE BABIES? THEY GET--
IDIOT !
Ahem. ACTUALLY, YOU GUYS, WE'RE.. eheh WE'RE GETTING MARRIED..
MARRIED ?!?
WHA ?!
PRINCESS! CAN THIS REALLY BE TRUE ?
Hee Hee Hee. ♡
YAHOO! WE'LL MAKE THE GREATEST FEAST FOR YOU, PRINCESS! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN!



LORD MARUDA.. THE ARMED RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON IS IN ATTACK FORMATION.

VERY WELL, OFFICER HAVE ALL SHIPS PREPARE FOR LANDING

GENERAL GEOBALDI'S BATTLE FLEET

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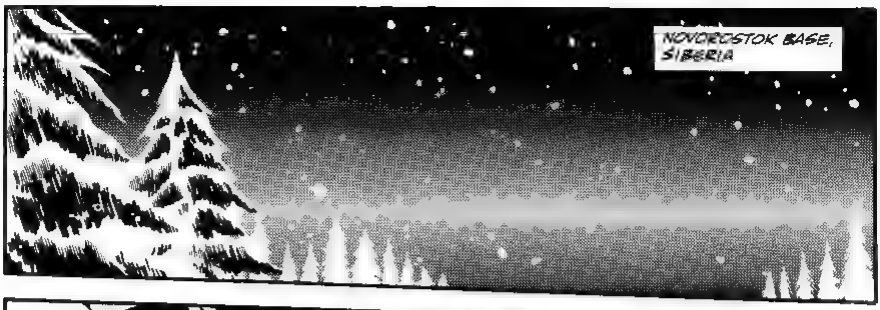
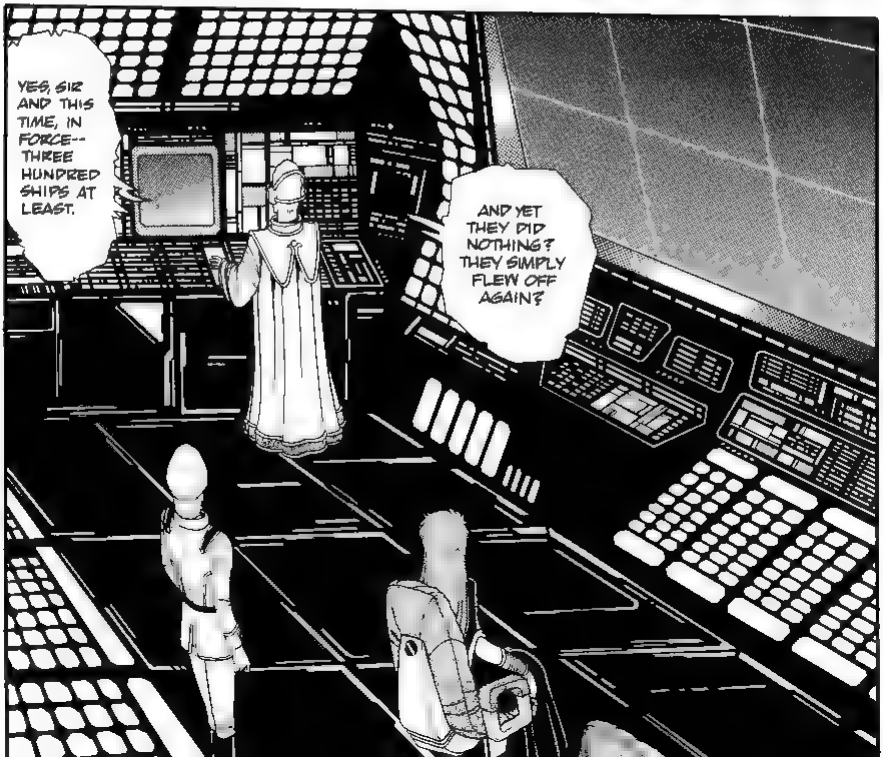
SHRE

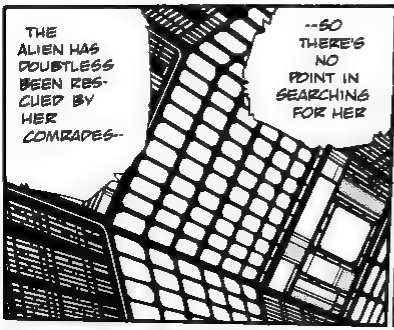

NOVOROSTOK BASE, SIBERIA

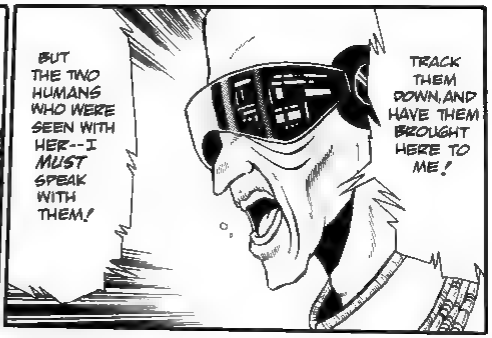
WHAT WAS THAT, GENERAL ?
THE ENEMY LANDED IN THE SAME PLACE THREE TIMES ?


YES, SIR AND THIS TIME, IN FORCE-- THREE HUNDRED SHIPS AT LEAST.
AND YET THEY DID NOTHING? THEY SIMPLY FLEW OFF AGAIN?

YES, GREAT LEADER. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE FRONT, THE ENEMY PENETRATED THE SAME AIRSPACE TWICE BEFORE OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.
WE HAVE REPORTS OF TWO ALIEN VEHICLES BEING SHOT DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED.
HMMMM. WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...
THERE'S MORE, SIR. UNCONFIRMED, BUT INTELLIGENCE FEELS IT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON THIS.
WE HAVE A REPORT THAT A GROUND PATROL ENCOUNTERED AN ALIEN IN A NEARBY TOWN AND TOOK IT INTO CUSTODY.
WHAT ?! AN ALIEN ?
YES, SIR. A YOUNG, BLONDE WOMAN. WITH ...ER... WITH HORNS, SIR.
HORNS...?
"THE TROOPS APPEAR TO HAVE PANICKED, SIR. THE DETAILS AREN'T CLEAR."
"THE REPORT CLAIMS THEY ALSO ARRESTED A YOUNG LOCAL WOMAN AND AN ASIAN MAN WHO WERE ACCOMPANYING THE ALIEN."

SO SOMEONE MADE CONTACT WITH THIS ALIEN?
HMMM... I SEE WHAT HAPPENED--THAT LAST FLOTILLA MUST HAVE RESCUED HER.
OF COURSE. SO WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY ARRESTED THIS WOMAN, GENERAL?
WELL, SIR... ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THEY.. THEY CLAIM THEIR TANK TURNED INTO A MONSTER.
THEY WERE ATTACKED BY THEIR OWN WEAPONS, THEY...WELL, IT'S OBVIOUSLY ALL TOTAL RUBBISH.
IN ANY CASE, THE THREE PRISONERS ESCAPED, SIR.
ELEMENTARY ILLUSION SPELLS--
--BUT ENOUGH TO SEND THE HUMANS RUNNING, I SHOULD IMAGINE.
SORCERESS JILEHR, IS IT...? I WONDER HOW MUCH OF YOU IS STILL ARI..
GENERAL BROTNIKOV! FIND THOSE TWO HUMANS!
SIR?

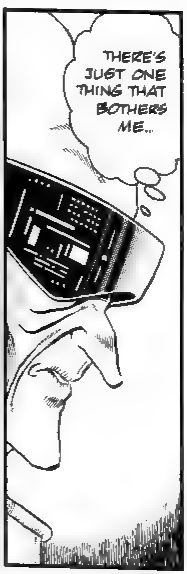

THE ALIEN HAS DOUBTLESS BEEN RESCUED BY HER COMRADES--
--SO THERE'S NO POINT IN SEARCHING FOR HER

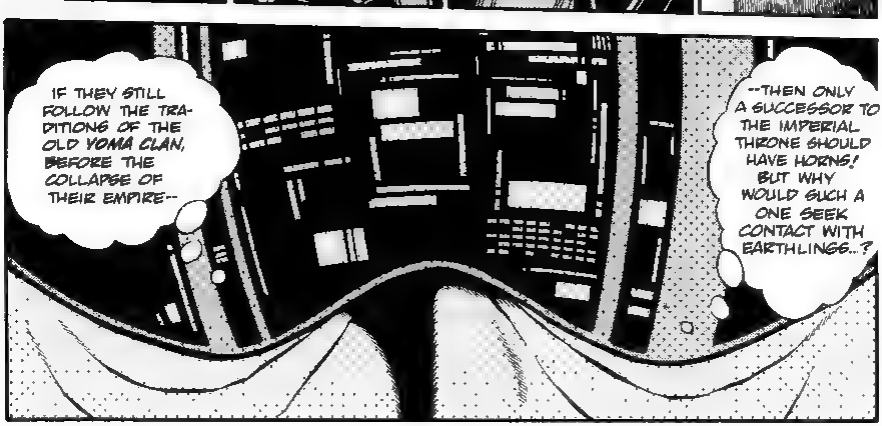

BUT THE TWO HUMANS WHO WERE SEEN WITH HER--I MUST SPEAK WITH THEM!
TRACK THEM DOWN, AND HAVE THEM BROUGHT HERE TO ME!

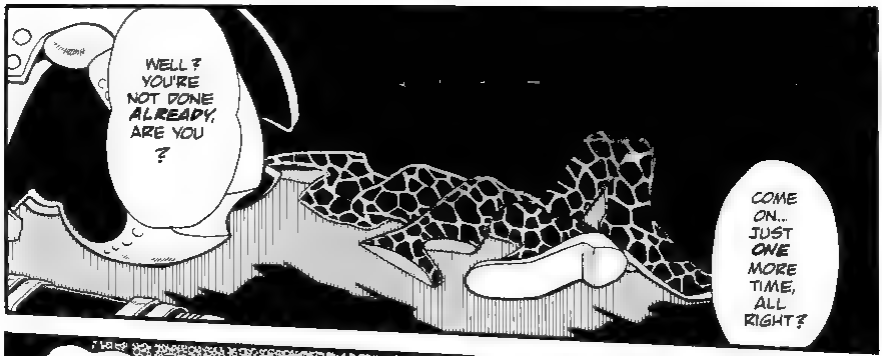
YES, SIR! UNDERSTOOD, SIR!
I'LL SEE THAT IT IS DONE IMMEDIATELY!

MY LORD. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WHO IS THIS ALIEN WOMAN?

NO, IT'S NOTHING, JILEHR. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT


THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT BOTHERS ME...

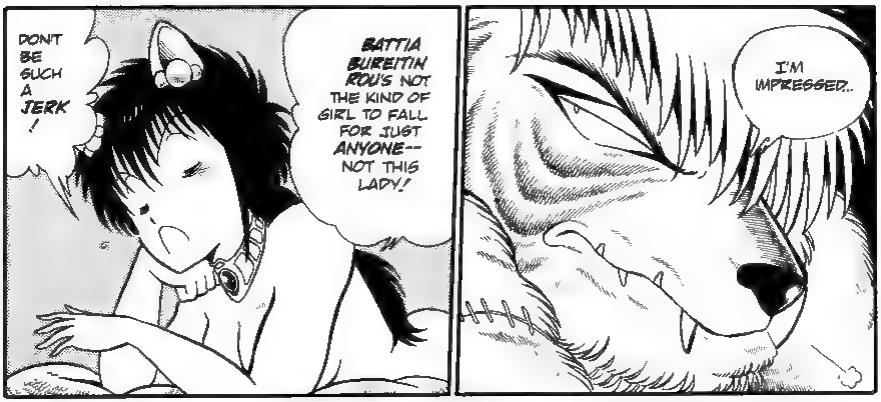

IF THEY STILL FOLLOW THE TRADITIONS OF THE OLD YOMA CLAN, BEFORE THE COLLAPSE OF THEIR EMPIRE--
--THEN ONLY A SUCCESSOR TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE SHOULD HAVE HORNS! BUT WHY WOULD SUCH A ONE SEEK CONTACT WITH EARTHLINGS...?


WELL? YOU'RE NOT DONE ALREADY, ARE YOU?
COME ON.. JUST ONE MORE TIME, ALL RIGHT?

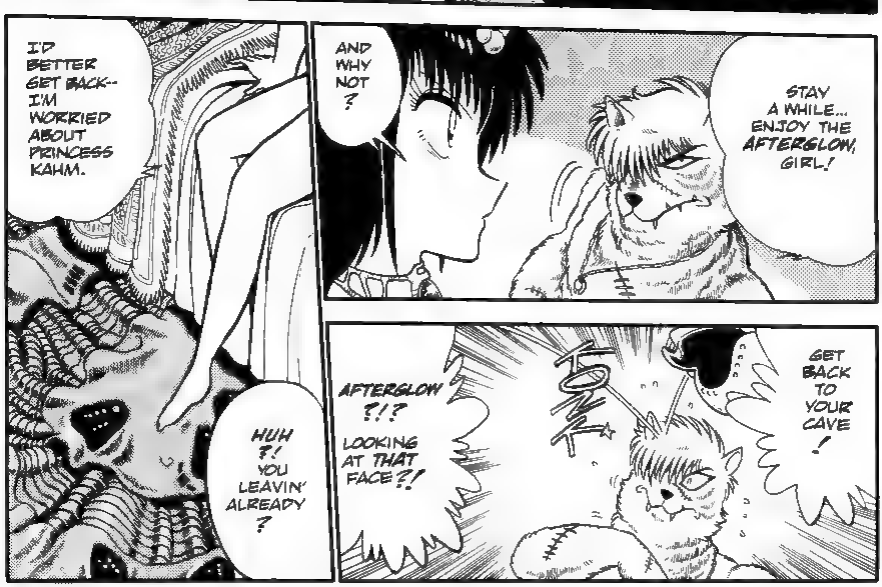
NAW, I'VE HAD ENOUGH...
...MY DAMN BACK'S KILLING ME.
HUH! YOU'RE USELESS!

ALL SHOW AND NO GO--THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
WELL, YOU'VE GOT BOTH, FOR DAMN SURE...

IM GLAD THAT YOU STILL HAVE THAT WILD EDGE TO YOU, GEOBALDI--IT WAS GOOD.
REALLY GOOD. ♡
FELL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN, HUH?

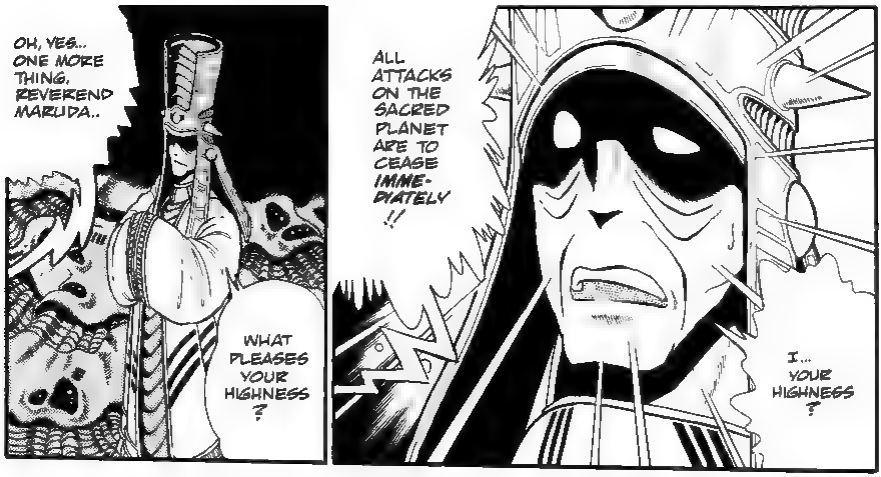

DON'T BE SUCH A JERK!
BATTIA BUREITIN ROU'S NOT THE KIND OF GIRL TO FALL FOR JUST ANYONE-- NOT THIS LADY!
I'M IMPRESSED..

YOU'VE GOT YOUR PROBLEMS.. NO ROMANCE IN YOU, FOR ONE THING!
AW, TO HELL WITH ROMANCE! WITH A FACE LIKE MINE, WHAT GODDAMN GOOD IS ROMANCE, EH?


I'D BETTER GET BACK-- I'M WORRIED ABOUT PRINCESS KAHM.
HUH?! YOU LEAVIN' ALREADY?
AND WHY NOT?
STAY A WHILE... ENJOY THE AFTERGLOW, GIRL!
AFTERGLOW?!? LOOKING AT THAT FACE?!
GET BACK TO YOUR CAVE!

MMM.. IT WAS GOOD. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
BUT NEXT TIME HAVE SOME SPARE CLOTHES ON HAND FOR ME, ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO, BUT YOU'VE GOT NO CLASS, YOU HEAR?!
THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT YOU MACHO HUNKS.. NO DAMN CLASS!
REVEREND MARUPA.. HOW GOES YOUR SEARCH?
AH, BATTIA...
THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN RESCUED UNHARMED.
SHE RETURNED TO YOUR SHIP JUST MOMENTS AGO.
WHEW
IN FACT, THERE'S A MESSAGE INCOMING FROM HER RIGHT NOW.

GEE, BATTIA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
I GET BACK, AND YOUR SHIP'S SITTING HERE EMPTY AND--
I DIDN'T ASK TO BE OVER HERE!!
IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN CAUSING TROUBLE BY JUST TAKING OFF ALL THE TIME!! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO CAUSE TROUBLE?!
BATTIA! HOW DARE YOU ADDRESS HER HIGHNESS IN SUCH LANGUAGE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, REVEREND MARUDA-- BATTIA AND I ARE OLD, OLD FRIENDS.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS...
BUT EVEN SO...
ANYWAY, GET A MOVE ON, WILL YOU?
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE LATE, KAHM!


OH, YES... ONE MORE THING, REVEREND MARUDA..
WHAT PLEASES YOUR HIGHNESS ?
ALL ATTACKS ON THE SACRED PLANET ARE TO CEASE IMMEDIATELY !!
I... YOUR HIGHNESS ?

BUT... BUT YOUR HIGHNESS !
HOW CAN WE DO THIS ?
WE HAVE EXPRESS ORDERS FROM HIS EMINENCE THE EMPEROR.
"USE OVERWHELMING FIREPOWER TO EXTINGUISH ALL LIFE ON THE SACRED PLANET."
IT IS A FIRST PRIORITY ORDER FROM YOUR REVERED FATHER HIMSELF !

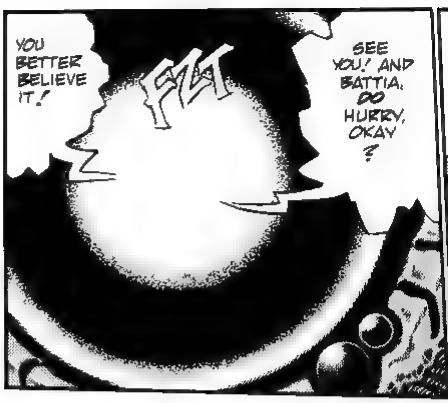
DON'T ATTEMPT TO DEFY ME, PRIEST !!
ORDERS FROM ME ARE THE SAME AS ORDERS FROM MY FATHER! UNDERSTAND ?!
OF--OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS !
AND YET.. WHY?
WHY? BECAUSE...

BECAUSE...
I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED !!!

Y-YOU.. I... WHA..?
KAHM !! RE-- REALLY ?

AAAND... WE ALWAYS DECLARE A CEASE-FIRE ON SUCH JOYOUS OCCASIONS, DON'T WE ?
ALL THE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF THE EMPIRE HAVE TO CELEBRATE, RIGHT?

YOUR...YOUR HIGHNESS... I AM MOST PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE AT LAST REACHED THIS WELCOME DECISION!
I, YOUR MOST HUMBLE SERVANT MARUDA GIREI, REJOICE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
YOUR HIGHNESS'S MARRIAGE SHALL BRING NEW POWER AND HONOR TO OUR EMPIRE— WE SHALL KNOW EVEN GREATER GLORY!


YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!
FLIT
SEE YOU! AND BATTIA, DO HURRY, OKAY?

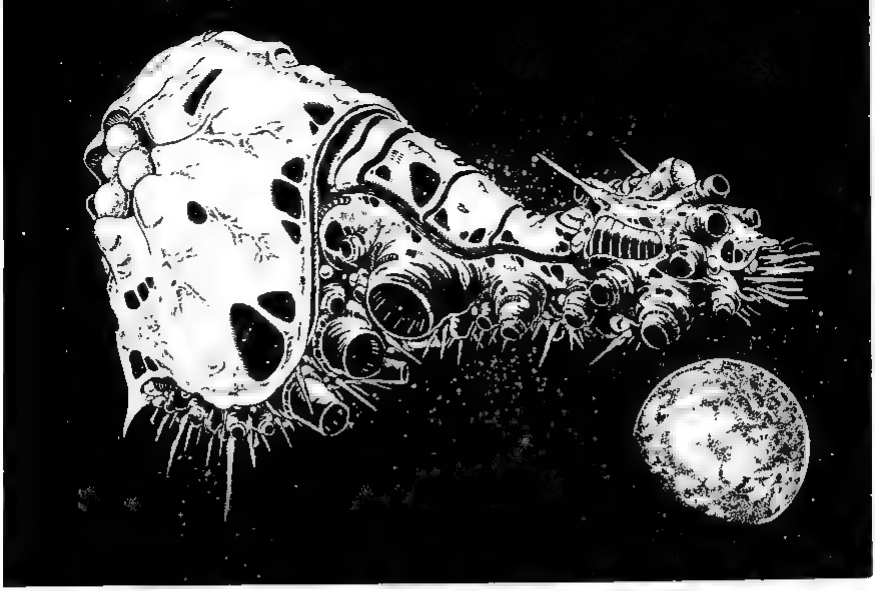
HMMM.. THESE ARE GREAT TIDINGS INDEED!
.....

IT HAS LONG BEEN THE GREATEST WORRY OF OUR LORD, THE EMPEROR..
AFTER ALL, BATTIA, HAS THE EMPIRE EVER BEFORE KNOWN SUCH A WILD AND WILLFUL PRINCESS?

AT LAST, THE PROBLEM OF THE SUCCESSION IS SOLVED!
PERHAPS.. BUT WHO IS SHE MARRYING?

INDEED, THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION-- THERE WERE SCORES OF CANDIDATES.
WHICH LUCKY NOBLEMAN WON OVER THE PRINCESS KAHM'S FAIR HEART?
HEH HEH... SO IT'S MARRIAGE, IS IT, KAHM? IT SEEMS YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE GIRL AT HEART...

"STRONG AND WILLFUL YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN, SINCE YOUR CHILDHOOD-- YOU ALWAYS HAD TO HAVE YOUR OWN WAY YOU WERE NEVER THE TYPE TO FOLLOW SOME GUY AROUND."
"AND HOW YOU USED TO MAKE FUN OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE! 'GIRL STUFF,' YOU CALLED IT.. NOT FOR YOU, NO WAY..."
IF KAHM REALLY HAS DECIDED TO GO FOR IT AT LAST, SHE MUST HAVE FOUND SOMEONE SHE'S REALLY INTERESTED IN, SOMEONE--
!
NO! NO, IT CAN'T BE..!
BATTIA...?
BATTIA!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BATTIA!



KAHM!!!

OH, MY GOD
THAT'S LADY BATTIA, PRINCESS KAHM'S BEST FRIEND.. EHEH HEH HEH.
HI, THERE! ♡
BAM
SO... GETTING MARRIED, ARE WE, MY DEAR ?
SURE !
AND YOUR FIANCÉ WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE THAT THING, WOULD IT ?
SURE !
AND I DO BELIEVE YOU ARE THE PRINCESS AND SOON TO BE EMPRESS OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE, ARE YOU NOT ?
SURE !

YOU'RE AN IDIOT !!!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SCREAMING AT ME LIKE THAT ?!

I HAVEN'T HALF BEGUN TO SCREAM !!

OUR IMPERIAL ARMY CAME HERE TO WIPE THOSE VERMIN OFF THE FACE OF THE SACRED PLANET!!

THE FIGHTING'S ALREADY BEGUN! BOTH SIDES HAVE TAKEN LOSSES!!

HOW CAN YOU, OUR PRINCESS AND LEADER, EVEN DREAM OF MARRYING THE ENEMY AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?!

DO YOU MIND NOT POUNDING ON THE TABLE?! YOU'LL DUMP THE FOOD!

BAM

BAM

IF I DON'T POUND THE TABLE, YOU WON'T BLOODY LISTEN TO ME !!

LISTEN TO WHAT ?!?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHO I MARRY !!

YOU'RE A PRINCESS! THE NEXT EMPRESS, KAHM! YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S ONLY DAUGHTER--HIS ONLY SUCCESSOR!

YOUR MARRIAGE ISN'T A MATTER OF PRIVATE CHOICE, DEAR GIRL!

HMPH!

AND ON TOP OF THAT--WHY MARRY THIS... THIS DISGUSTING MONKEY-MAN?! WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY SEE IN HIM?!

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THAT POTATOHEAD, KAHM! SHORT, SCRAWNY, THE FACE OF A DROOLING IDIOT... A LECHEROUS, UGLY, PRIMITIVE LITTLE APE!!

.....
.....

GEE, GOT A WAY WITH WORDS, DOESN'T SHE?

ULP!

YOU!! GOD DAMN YOU, ANYWAY!

HOW IN THE HELL DID YOU MANAGE TO TRICK KAHM INTO THIS.. THIS IDIOCY!!

T--T--TRICK?!

I... SHE... IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL! SHE JUST PROMISED THAT IF WE GOT MARRIED, YOU GUYS'D STOP ATTACKING EARTH, SO--

:ERK!:

WHAT?!

ALL RIGHT, KAHM!! WHAT KIND OF STUPID PROMISE HAVE YOU MADE THIS TIME?!

SMASH!

SHUT UP!!

YOU JUST STAY OUT OF THIS, BATTIA !!
SUCCESSION ?! THE SUCCESSION CAN GO TO HELL !!

K-- KAHM...

EVEN YOU, BATTIA? TALKING LIKE MY FATHER OR THOSE DAMN PRIESTS? I CAN'T STAND IT!!

I WON'T DO IT!! I WON'T BE TIED DOWN !!
IF I HAVE TO MARRY SOME CREEP THEY'VE CHOSEN "FOR THE GOOD OF THE EMPIRE"...
THEN I'LL LEAVE! I'LL RUN AWAY! TO HELL WITH THE EMPIRE!!

GO...

AH, WELL, THEN-- HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY.
TAKE HIM TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET... BUT I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

UNTIL THEN, ENJOY YOUR DREAMS, DEAR KAHM.

Hmph!

WELL, TO HELL WITH HER! I THOUGHT AT LEAST BATTIA WOULD BE HAPPY FOR ME...

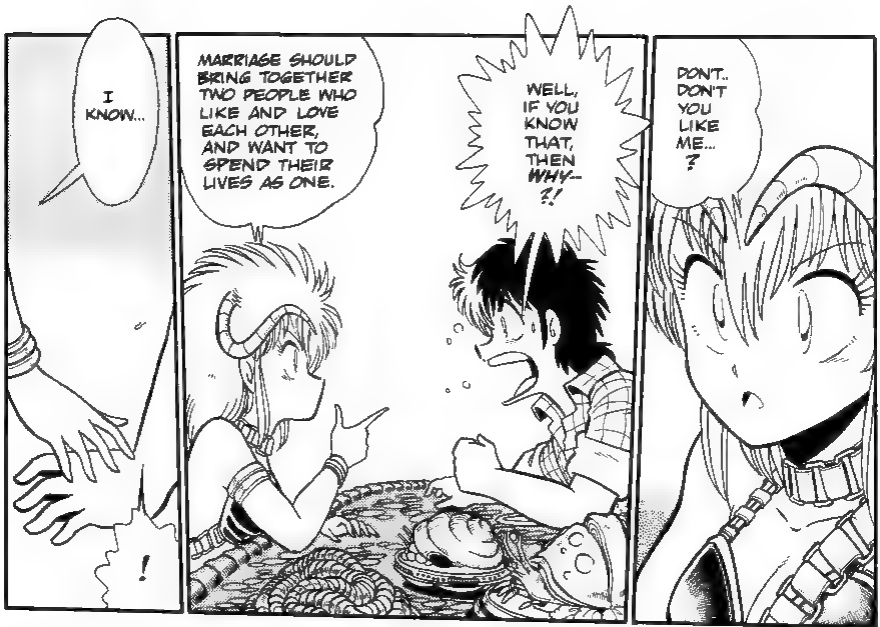
STILL. DON'T THINK TOO BADLY OF HER, TETSUYA
SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND... AND REALLY A GOOD PERSON AT HEART.

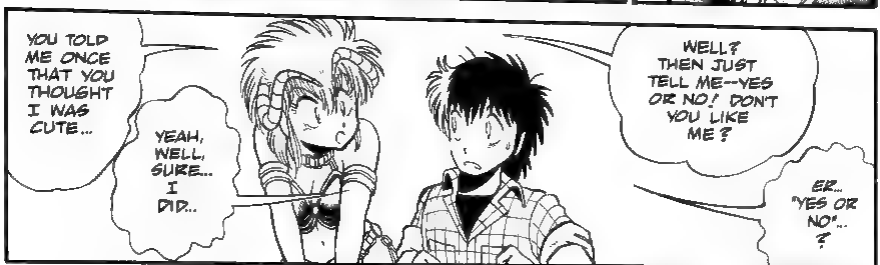
OH, I'M SURE-- AFTER ALL, I'M JUST A POTATOHEAD, WHAT DO I KNOW?
AW, COME ON!

BUT ONE THING SHE SAID WAS RIGHT, KAHM!

YOU'RE THE CROWN PRINCESS!
I MEAN, PEOPLE SHOULD GET MARRIED BECAUSE THEY--
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO GET MARRIED JUST FOR FUN, OR BECAUSE OF SOME SILLY PROMISE!

BAM


I KNOW...
!
MARRIAGE SHOULD BRING TOGETHER TWO PEOPLE WHO LIKE AND LOVE EACH OTHER, AND WANT TO SPEND THEIR LIVES AS ONE.
WELL, IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WHY--?!
DON'T.. DON'T YOU LIKE ME...?


YOU TOLD ME ONCE THAT YOU THOUGHT I WAS CUTE...
YEAH, WELL, SURE... I DID..
WELL? THEN JUST TELL ME--YES OR NO! DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
ER... "YES OR NO"..?

LET'S SEE... WOULD "YES" MEAN I "YES, I DON'T LIKE YOU"--

--OR WOULD SHE THINK I MEANT "YES, I DO LIKE YOU"?
OR WOULD A DOUBLE NEGATIVE MAKE MORE SENSE? NO, WAIT...

Yahoo!
I KNEW IT!!
WHA?!
H-HEY!!

A CEASEFIRE ?

WHAT IS THIS CRAP, PRIEST?! I CAME HERE TO FIGHT A WAR!
Hmph! WHO'S BEEN WASTING TIME ?!
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE GODDAMN TIME LISTENING TO YOUR IDIOCY!
THERE IS GOING TO BE A CEREMONY, GEOBALDI-- PRINCESS KAHM'S WEDDING CEREMONY !

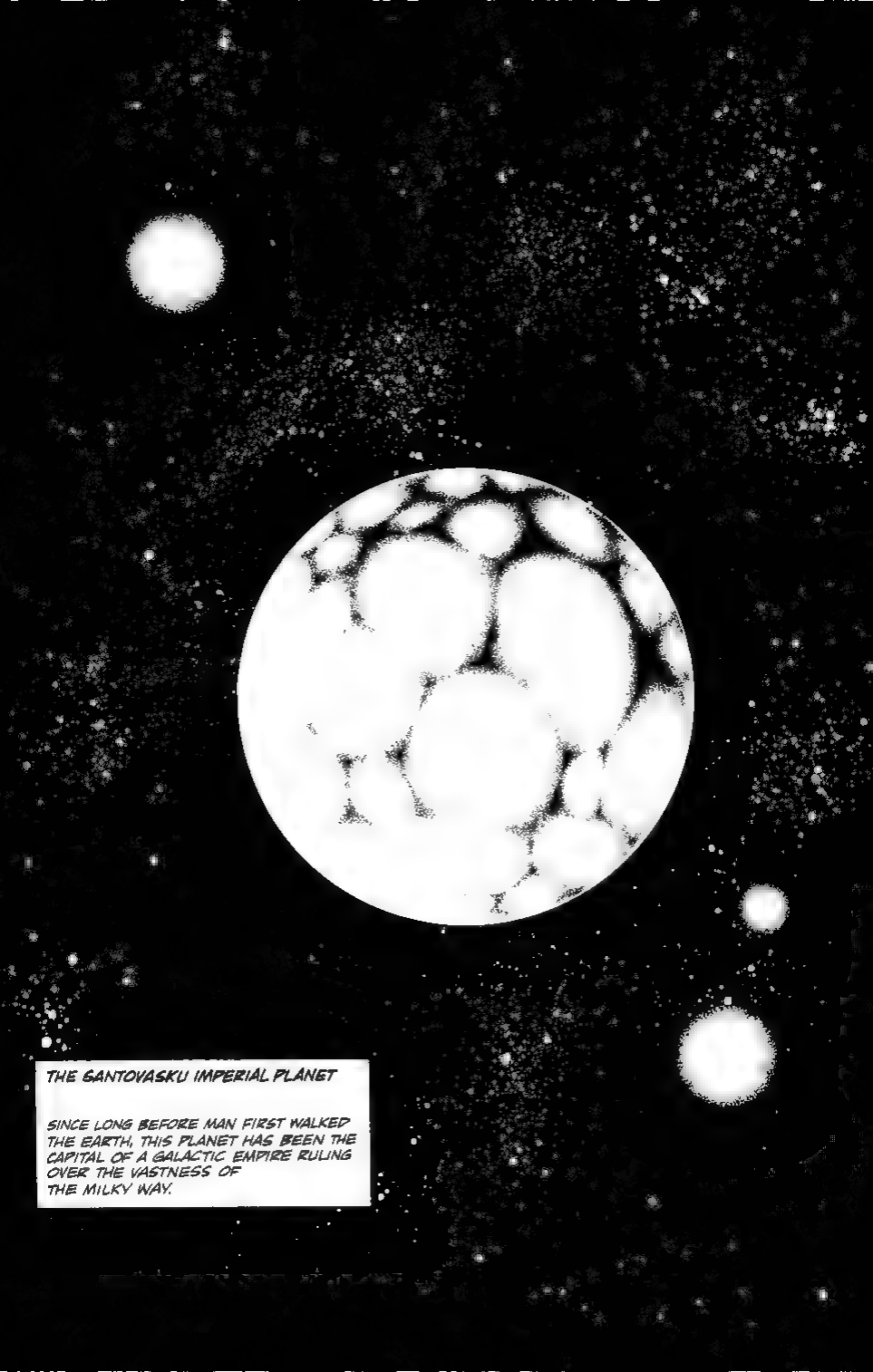
A WEDDING ?
FOR THAT WILD LITTLE BRAT KAHM ?
Ahem...
QUITE SO, GENERAL. WHICH MEANS THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH IMPERIAL CUSTOM, THERE MUST BE A COMPLETE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES ON ALL FRONTS UNTIL AFTER THE WEDDING.

HRMMM.
IN THAT CASE, MAYBE WE OUGHT TO FIRE OFF A COUPLE OF SALVOES FOR THE EARTHLINGS, AS CONGRATULATORY SALUTES, EH?
Heh Heh Heh..

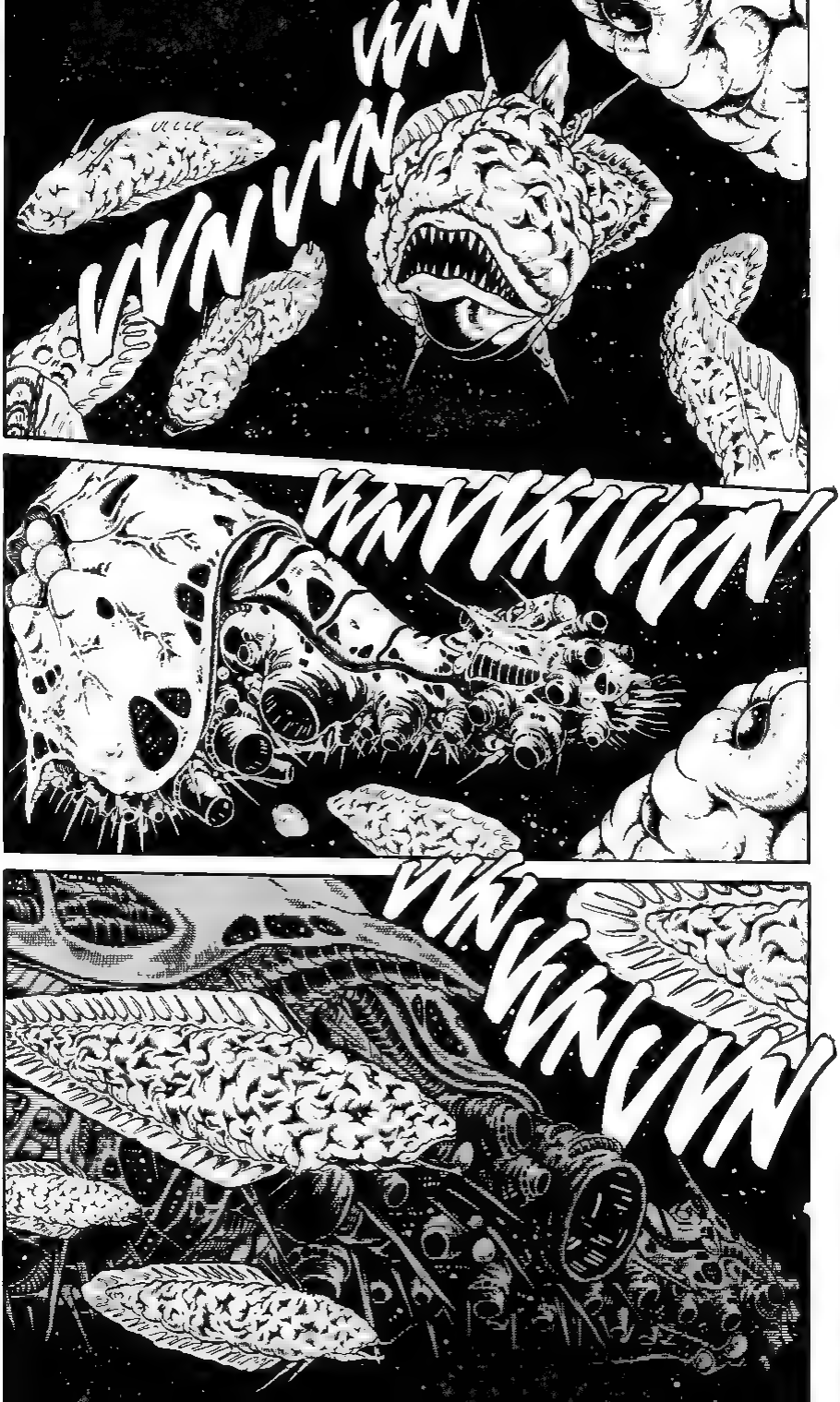
!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
WH--- WHERE TO?
DON'T BE SO THICK! TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET, OF COURSE! THE CAPITAL OF THE ENTIRE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!
PRESSURE CLIMBING! WARPOUT PORTAL CLEAR OF SPACE/TIME DISTORTIONS!
BANASHIN MOTOR SPINNING UP! DIFFUSION VALVES OPEN!
PORT AND STARBOARD ENGINES FULL THRUST!
TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET! TO MY HOME!!

GULP
THIS IS IT...
OH BOY OH BOY
THIS IS IT...!
I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
Hmph!

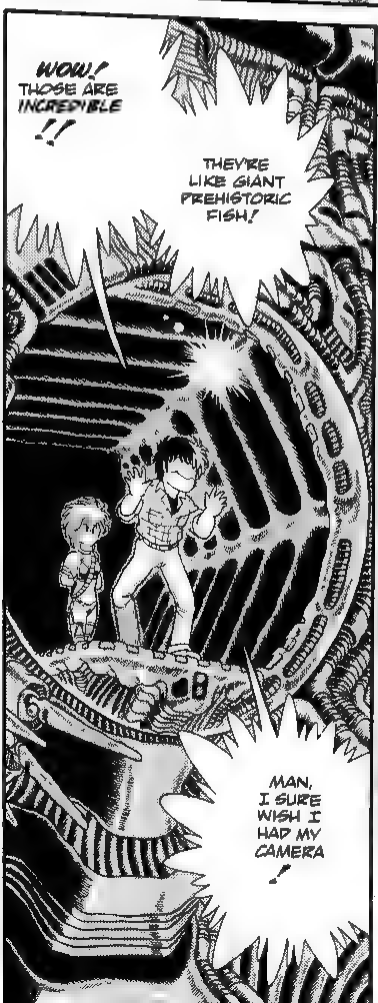
FZT


THE GANTOVASKU IMPERIAL PLANET
SINCE LONG BEFORE MAN FIRST WALKED THE EARTH, THIS PLANET HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF A GALACTIC EMPIRE RULING OVER THE VASTNESS OF THE MILKY WAY.

FIFTH PLANET OF THE BESMEROS STAR SYSTEM NEAR THE GALACTIC CORE. IT IS LARGER THAN EARTH IN BOTH DIAMETER AND MASS.
VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE PLANETARY SURFACE IS COVERED BY THE IMPERIAL PALACE OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPEROR WITH NO EXAGGERATION, SANTOVASKU COULD BE CALLED A SINGLE, GARGANTUAN PALACE COMPLEX.


VVN VVN VVN
VVNVVNVVN
VVN VVN VVN

THAT MUST BE OUR FIGHTER ESCORT, AT LAST.


WOW! THOSE ARE INCREDIBLE !!
THEY'RE LIKE GIANT PREHISTORIC FISH!
MAN, I SURE WISH I HAD MY CAMERA !

LIVING WEAPONS...?
WELL, WE USED TO TAKE HORSES AND ELEPHANTS INTO BATTLE..

I SUPPOSE THEY MAKE GOOD WEAPONS, AS LONG AS YOU CAN CONTROL THEM

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ?
OH, NOTHING, NOTHING. IT'S JUST LIKE...LIKE BEING IN A DREAM, I GUESS.

A DREAM...?

TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN MY SHOES!

A COUPLE DAYS AGO I WAS JUST A LOUSY PHOTOGRAPHER, AND NOW..

NOW WHAT?

I GUESS I ALWAYS DID KINDA BELIEVE IN UFO'S, ALIENS, STUFF LIKE THAT--

--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT SOMEDAY I'D BE TRAVELLING TO ANOTHER PLANET TO MARRY AN ALIEN PRINCESS. NOT IN MY WILDEST DREAMS...

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

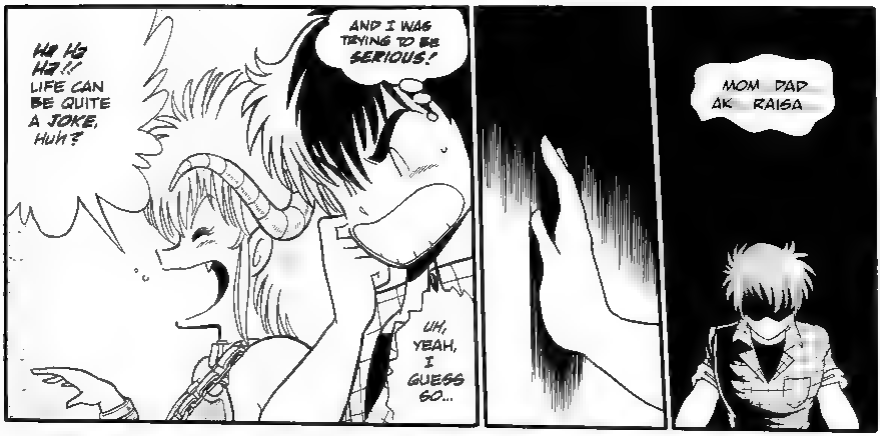
HM?

WHEN I FIRST MET THE EARTHMAN, TETSUYA IWAKATSUKI, HE WAS JUST ANOTHER ENEMY, BUT NOW...NOW HE'S SOMEONE SPECIAL

A LOT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US, GOOD AND BAD..

...AND NOW, HERE WE ARE--TOGETHER LIKE THIS!

KAHM...


HA HA HA!! LIFE CAN BE QUITE A JOKE, HUH?
AND I WAS TRYING TO BE SERIOUS!
UH, YEAH, I GUESS SO...
MOM DAD AK RAISA

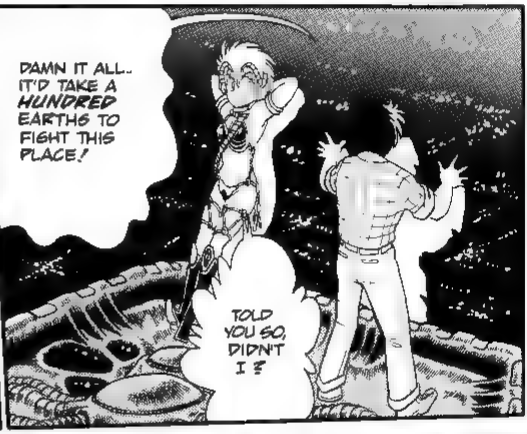
I'M FINALLY HERE.. THE IMPERIAL PLANET OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE.
HERE TO END THE WAR..

VVNVVNVVNVVNVVNVVNVVN

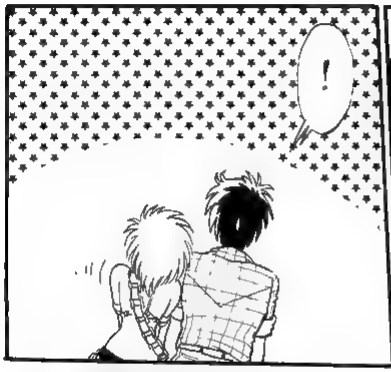
VVRN VVRN VVRN
VRN VRN VRN VRN

.....
WELL? HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE PLANET?

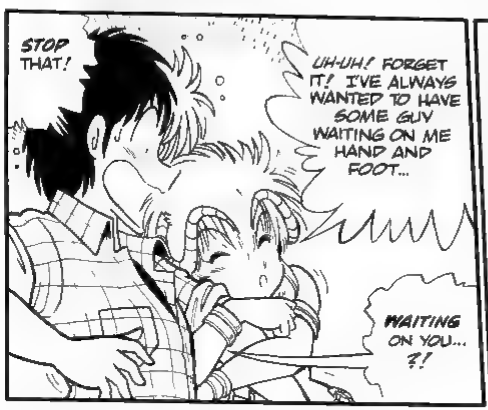
HOW DO I LIKE IT?!
TH-THIS IS WHAT I CALL A CIVILIZATION!!


DAMN IT ALL.. IT'D TAKE A HUNDRED EARTHS TO FIGHT THIS PLACE!
TOLD YOU SO, DIDN'T I?

VRN VRN
VRN VRN


!

WHY? WHATEVER FOR?
WE'RE ENGAGED, AREN'T WE?
HEY! KNOCK IT OFF!


STOP THAT!
UH-UH! FORGET IT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE SOME GUY WAITING ON ME HAND AND FOOT...
WAITING ON YOU...?!

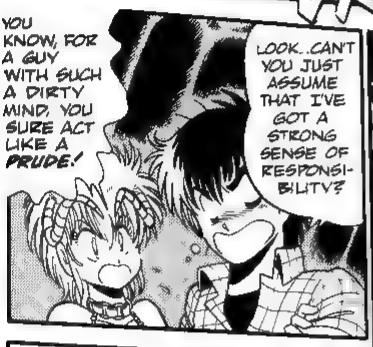
YOU COULD DO SOMETHING, YOU KNOW... PUT YOUR ARM AROUND ME, SQUEEZE ME TIGHT...
YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?

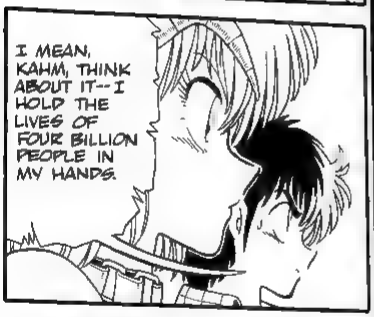
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?! THIS ISN'T ANY TIME TO FOOL AROUND!

I HAPPEN TO BEAR A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, WOMAN! THE VERY FATE OF EARTH RESTS ON MY SHOULDERS! I'VE NO TIME TO INDULGE IN FOOLISH, EROTIC DALLIANCE!

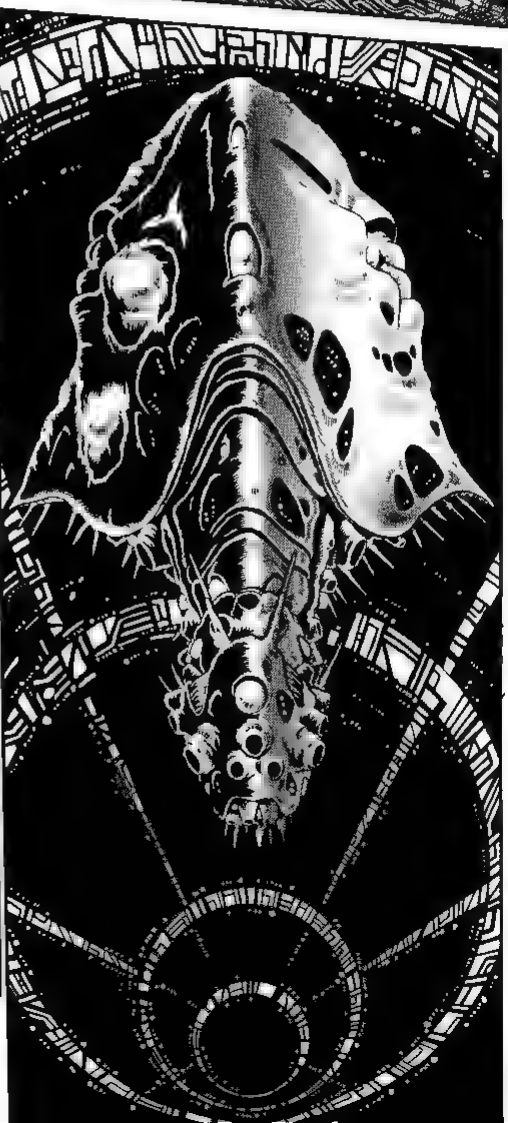
GAH!
NICE SPEECH.. SAY, WHY DON'T YOU LOSE SOME WEIGHT?
STOP THAT!

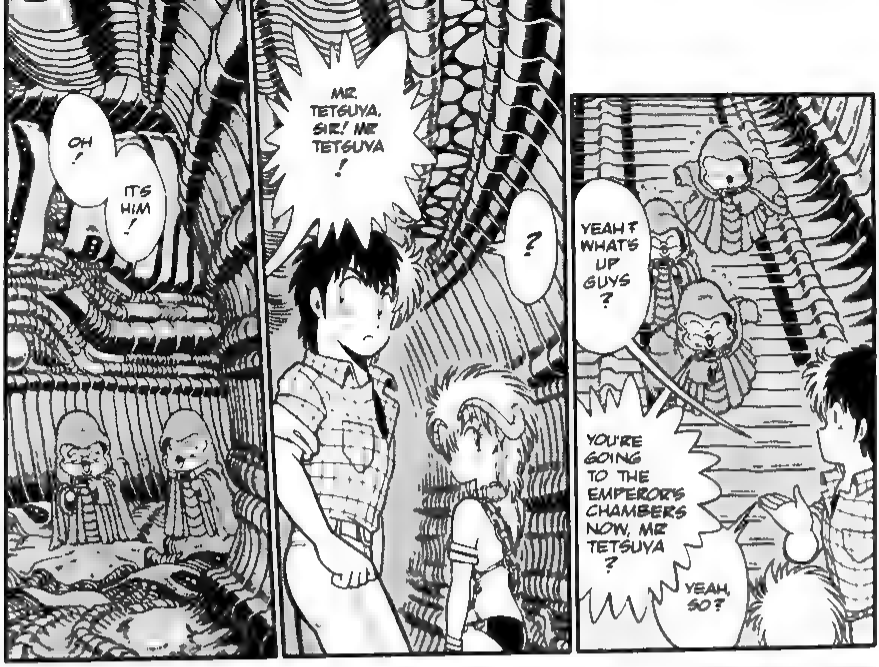
VRN
VRN
VRN VRN


YOU KNOW, FOR A GUY WITH SUCH A DIRTY MIND, YOU SURE ACT LIKE A PRUDE!
LOOK...CAN'T YOU JUST ASSUME THAT I'VE GOT A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY?

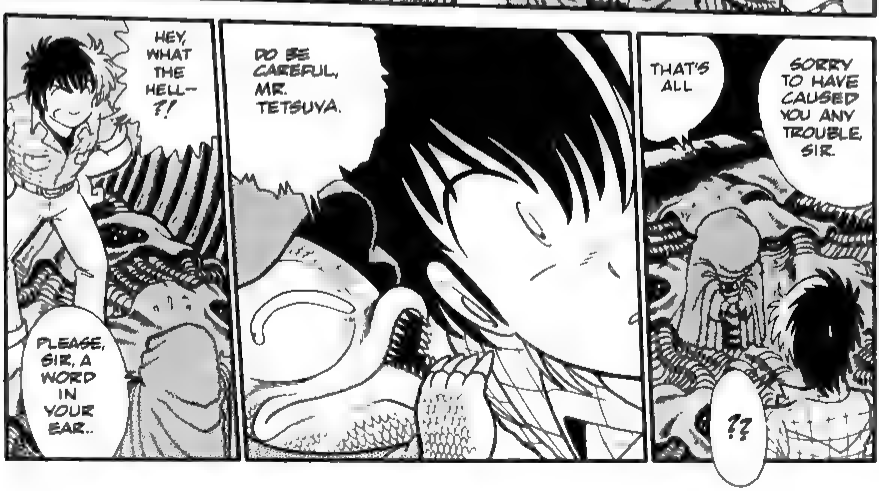

I MEAN, KAHM, THINK ABOUT IT--I HOLD THE LIVES OF FOUR BILLION PEOPLE IN MY HANDS.

AND FRANKLY, IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME...




OH!
IT'S HIM!
MR. TETSUYA, SIR! MR TETSUYA!
?
YEAH? WHAT'S UP GUYS?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE EMPEROR'S CHAMBERS NOW, MR TETSUYA?
YEAH, SO?

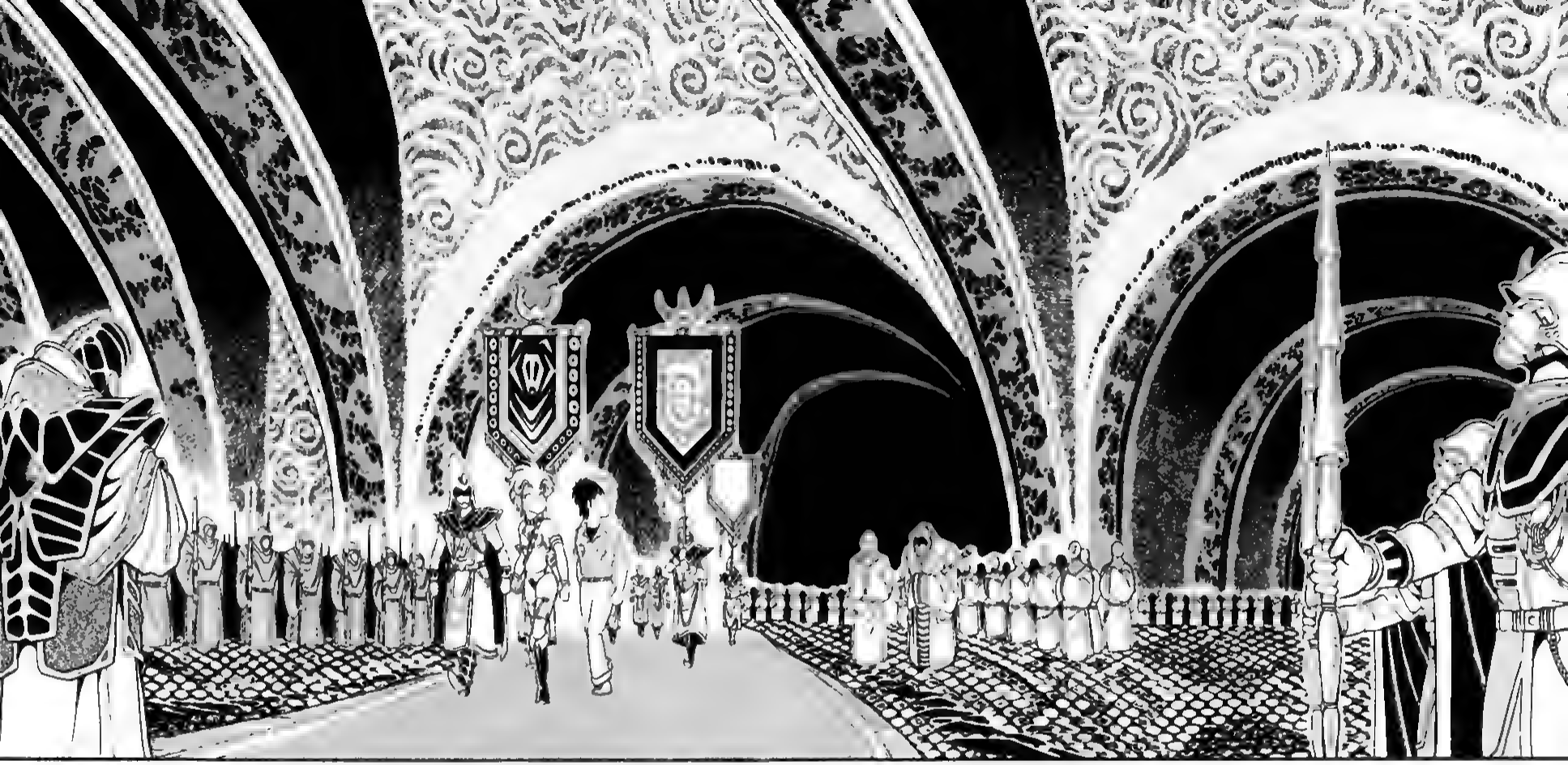
PLEASE COME WITH ME, SIR... I'VE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
SO SORRY, PRINCESS. WE'LL ONLY BORROW HIM A MINUTE, EH HEH HEH...

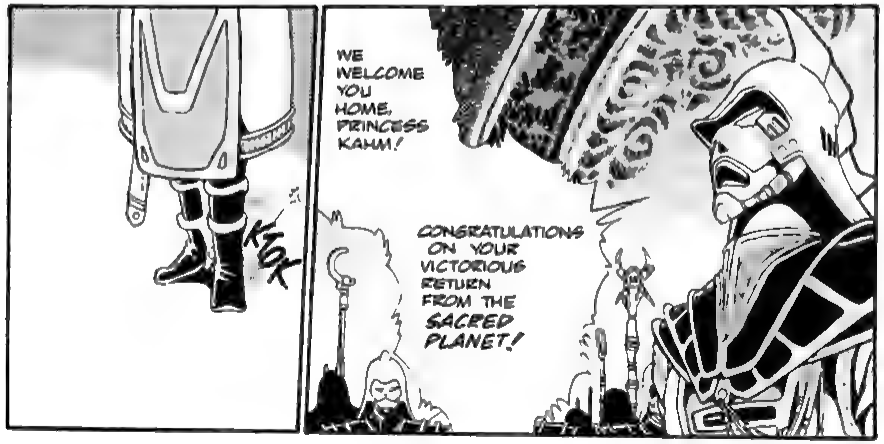

HEY, WHAT THE HELL--?!
PLEASE, SIR, A WORD IN YOUR EAR..
DO BE CAREFUL, MR. TETSUYA.
THAT'S ALL
SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED YOU ANY TROUBLE, SIR.
??

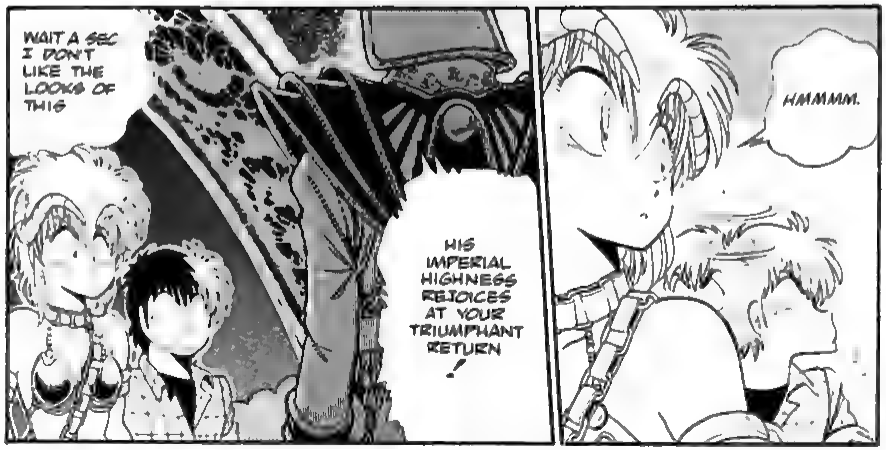
WHAT DID THEY WANT ?
NOTHING, REALLY.. THAT'S WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT IT.
BY THE WAY... IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG? ANYTHING I SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT?
OH, NO, NO!
NAO'S JUST AN OLD WORRY-WART... IT'S HIS JOB, REALLY.
THEY'RE GONE...
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT, LADY BATTIA ?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW !
OH, DEAR. OH, DEAR

Ta-Ta-Taaa!

GLORY TO THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!!
GLORY TO THE PRINCESS KAHM!!
SA-BADA-DDMM
TAPTAPTAPTAPTAP
GULP!




KLK
WE WELCOME YOU HOME, PRINCESS KAHM!
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORIOUS RETURN FROM THE SACRED PLANET!


WAIT A SEC I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS
HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS REJOICES AT YOUR TRIUMPHANT RETURN!
HMMMM.

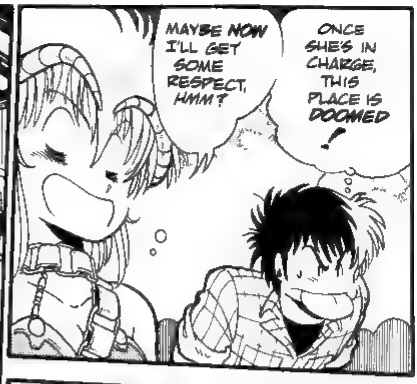
TROOPS OF THE SELECT IMPERIAL GUARD ON DIRECT REASSIGNMENT TO THE PALACE PROPER
GOSH LOOKIT THAT.

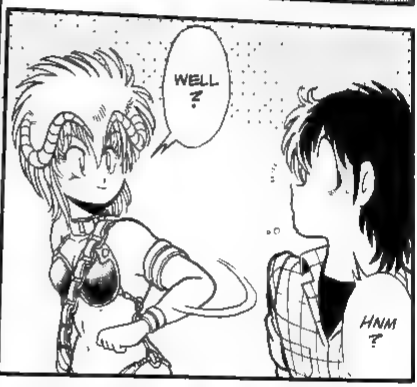
KONK
OW!
WOULD YOU STOP GAWKING AROUND LIKE A HICK?!
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!

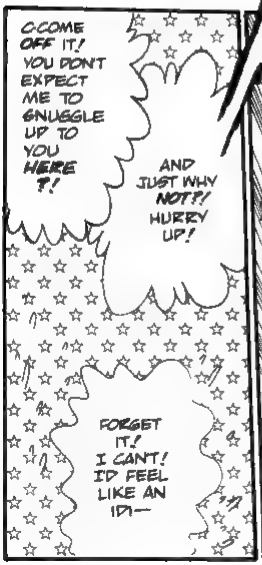
TRY AND ACT IMPORTANT WILL YOU? INSPECT THE TROOPS OR SOMETHING.
YEAH SURE RIGHT

YO, GUYS..
HOW'S IT HANGIN'? HEH, HEH..
GET ME OUTTA HERE!

JEEZ KAHM... I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE A PRINCESS.
I'M CONVINCED!


MAYBE NOW I'LL GET SOME RESPECT, HMM?
ONCE SHE'S IN CHARGE, THIS PLACE IS DOOMED!


WELL?
HMM?


C-COME OFF IT! YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO SNUGGLE UP TO YOU HERE?!
AND JUST WHY NOT?! HURRY UP!
FORGET IT! I CAN'T! I'D FEEL LIKE AN IDI—

AW, BUT HEY..

PRINCESS KAHM!
!
oh, NO!!
YIKES!
IT'S A BIT LATE TO HIDE NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS!
PERHAPS NOW YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN WHY A YOUNG LADY SUCH AS YOURSELF, CROWN PRINCESS OF THE MIGHTIEST EMPIRE IN GALACTIC HISTORY, WOULD WANT TO LOCK AN OLD MAN LIKE ME IN THE BATHROOM AND RUN AWAY FROM HOME?!
WELL ISN'T THIS JUST GREAT!! LECTURES THE MINUTE I GET HOME!
OKAY, IT WAS BAD OF ME. I'M JUST SO SORRY SATISFIED?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR BACKTALK, PRINCESS!!

WHO'S HE ?
BISHOP GELVAS-- HE'S BEEN MY TUTOR SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
YOUR TEACHER ?
POOR GUY... HE MUST BE A WALKING NERVOUS WRECK!
MM ?
PARDON ME, BUT MAY I BE SO BOLD AS TO INQUIRE AFTER THE YOUNG GENTLEMAN ?
MOST... ER... UNUSUAL ATTIRE...
OF COURSE... I'M SORRY. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
BISHOP GELVAS, THIS IS AN ALIEN FROM THE SACRED PLANET.
TETSUYA WAKATSUKI AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR!
GOODNESS, ALL THE WAY FROM THE SACRED PLANET.
YOU MUST BE TERRIBLY TIRED AFTER YOUR LONG JOUR--
WHAT DID YOU SAY ?! THE SACRED PLANET ?? YOU MEAN HE'S AN, AN INVA--
YEAH, AN INVADER. SO ?

GUARDS !!

SEIZE THIS CREATURE !

NOW !!

YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON HIM AND I'LL BLAST YOU TO A GREASY SMUT !!

S-BUT.. MY LADY...

PRINCESS, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? IT IS ALL HIGHLY IRREGULAR...

WHO IS THIS--THIS *THING*? AND WHY DID YOU BRING HIM HERE, TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET?

TETSUYA'S MY-- I MEAN, TETSUYA'S HERE AS THE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS PLANET!

YOU KNOW, FOR OFFICIAL *TALKS!*

THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE COME TO MEET WITH YOUR EMPEROR AND PUT AN END TO THIS RIDICULOUS WAR BETWEEN OUR RACES!

WHAT?! THIS CREATURE SEEKS AN AUDIENCE WITH OUR AUGUST EMPEROR ?!

OH, COME ON, TETSUYA-- JUST IGNORE HIM.

WAIT! YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE! WAIT!

HMPH!!

WHAT IF THAT CREATURE IS PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE THE EMPEROR?!

AT LEAST ALLOW US TO SEARCH HIM!!

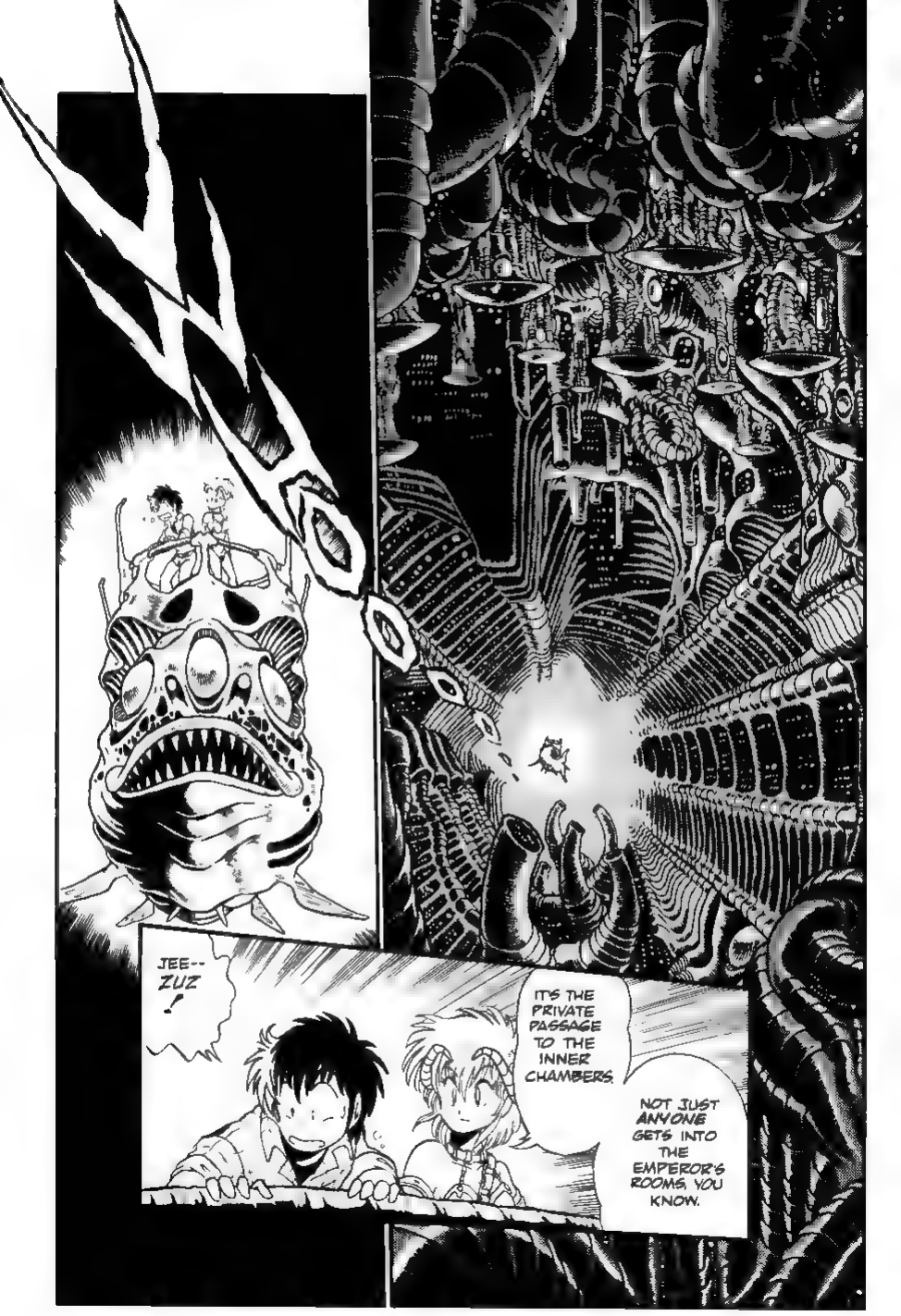
JUST SHUT UP!

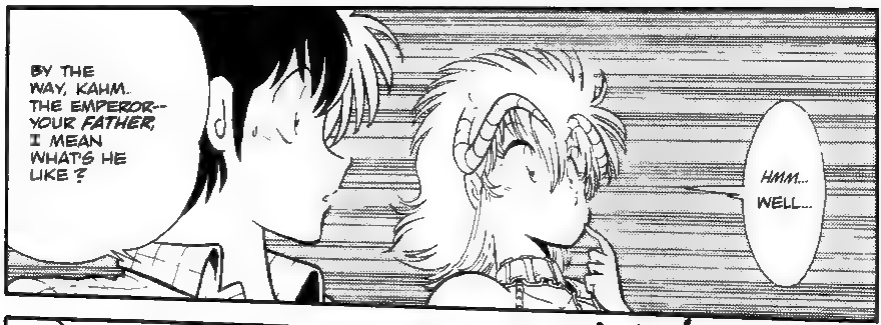
AW, DON'T WORRY--NOTHING IN MY POCKETS, SEE? NOTHING!

BISHOP! DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, DEAR KAHM--NO, I DO NOT. I INSIST ON ACCOMPANYING YOU.

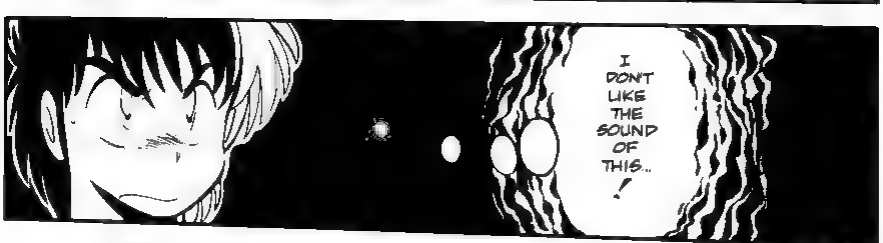
....
....

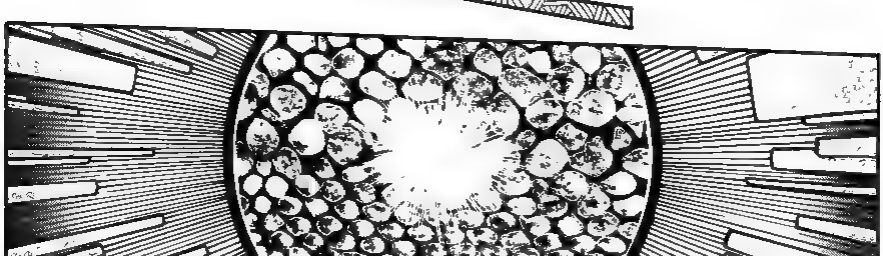

JEE--
ZUZ
!
IT'S THE PRIVATE PASSAGE TO THE INNER CHAMBERS.
NOT JUST ANYONE GETS INTO THE EMPEROR'S ROOMS, YOU KNOW.

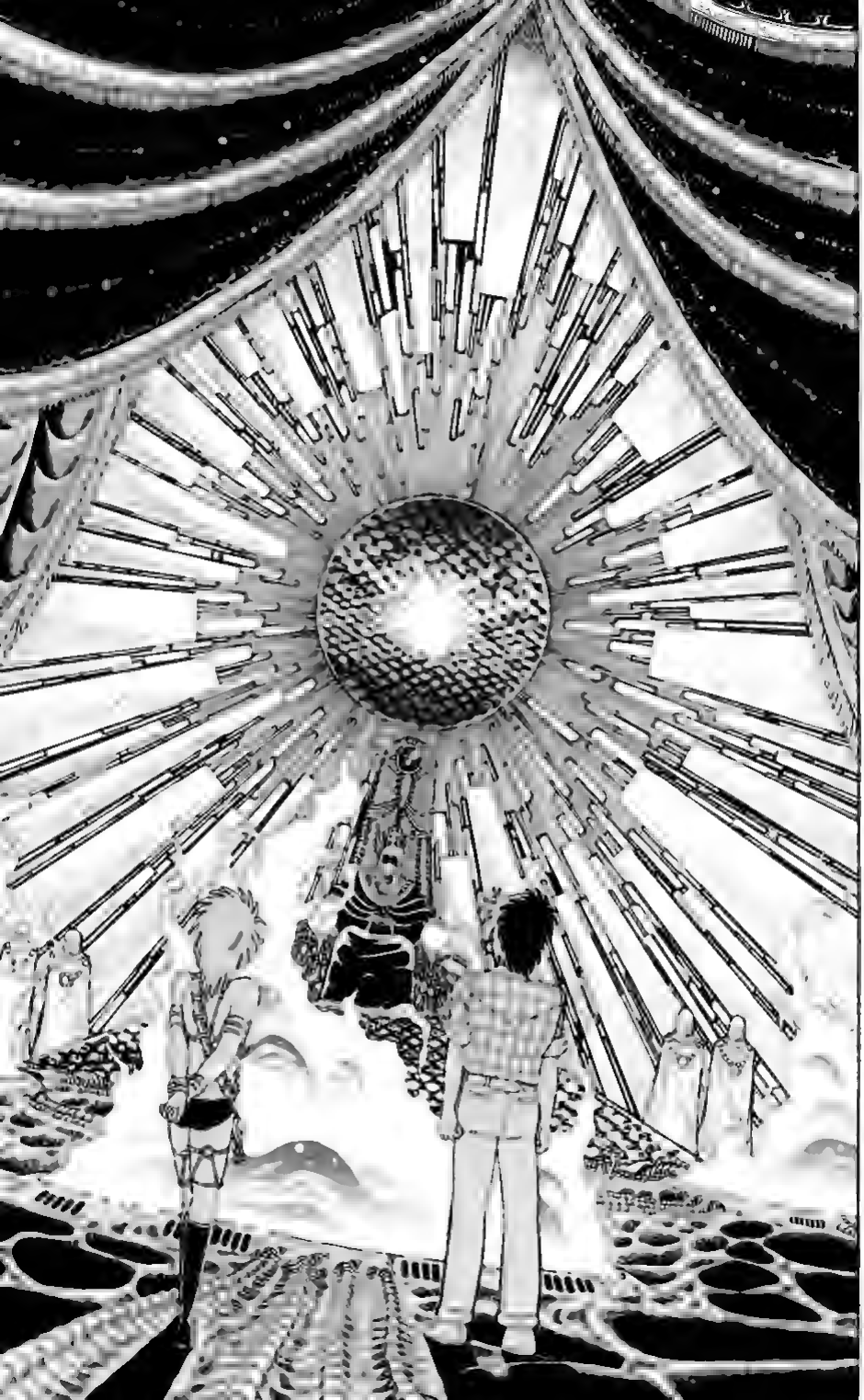

BY THE WAY, KAHM. THE EMPEROR-- YOUR FATHER, I MEAN WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HMM... WELL...

GEE...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE'S A LITTLE STUBBORN...

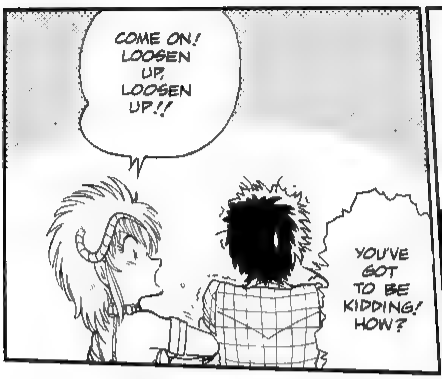
HE ALWAYS STARTS LECTURING THE SECOND HE SEES MY FACE!
heh heh heh
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HIDING FROM HIM FOR THE LAST WHILE!


I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...!

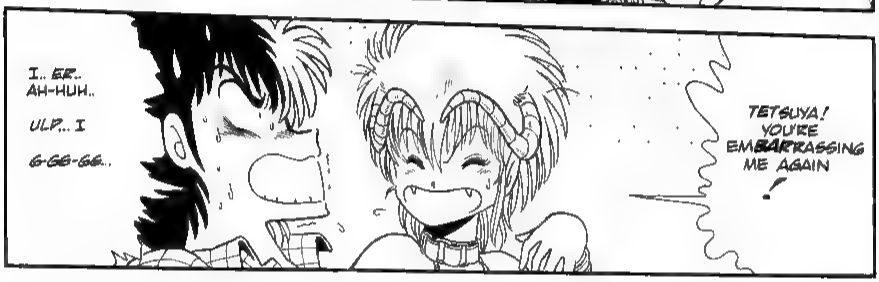




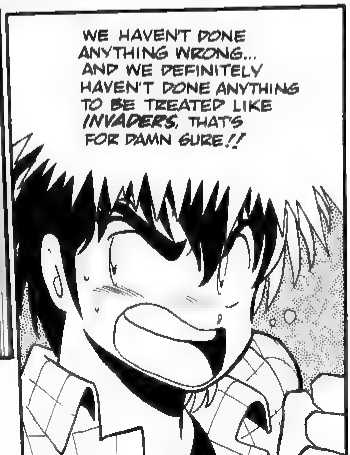
EMPEROR QUEVAS THE 13TH
Y-YE-YES, SIR! MR EMPEROR, SIR! TETSUYA WAKATSUKI, NINETEEN, NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER!
AN EMISSARY ?
YOU... ?


COME ON! LOOSEN UP, LOOSEN UP!!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! HOW?

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO SAY?

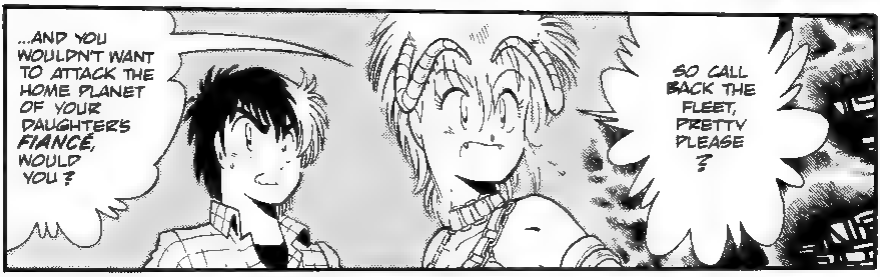

I.. ER.. AH-HUH..
ULP... I
G-GG-GG...
TETSUYA! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME AGAIN!

STOP ATTACKING THE EARTH RIGHT NOW!!


WE HAVENT DONE ANYTHING WRONG... AND WE DEFINITELY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO BE TREATED LIKE INVADERS, THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE!!

WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING US? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
IF YOU'VE GOT A REASON, I'D SURE AS HELL LIKE TO HEAR IT!
I MEAN, FAR AS I CAN SEE, IT'S YOU GUYS WHO ARE THE INVADERS!! SO WHY--
mmph!
Heh, heh.. SO ANYWAY, LETS STOP ATTACKING THOSE ALIENS ON THE SACRED PLANET, OKAY?
WHY NOT GIVE THE ORDER RIGHT AWAY?
'CAUSE TETSUYA IS MY FIANCÉ, THAT'S WHY!!
AND WHY SHOULD I?

!!


...AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO ATTACK THE HOME PLANET OF YOUR DAUGHTER'S *FIANCÉ*, WOULD YOU?
SO CALL BACK THE FLEET, PRETTY PLEASE?

THIS IS IT...THE FATE OF THE EARTH...

OUTLANDERS

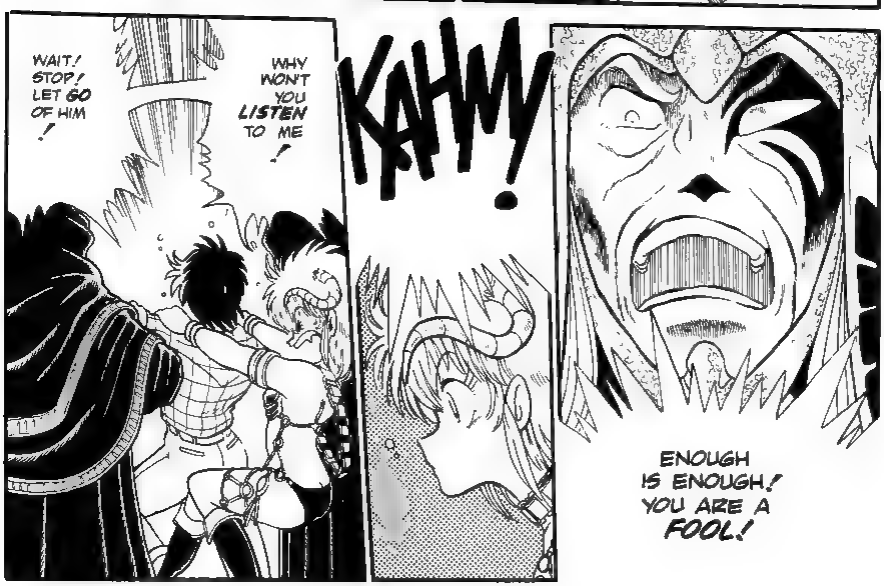
BOOK XI

WHKOOM
AAA!!
KAHM
WHAT--
!
!

TETSUYA !!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?!
LEGGO OF ME !!
TAKE THAT MAN, AND IN THE NAME OF MYSELF AND THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE...
...PUT HIM TO DEATH !!
EXECUTIONERS !

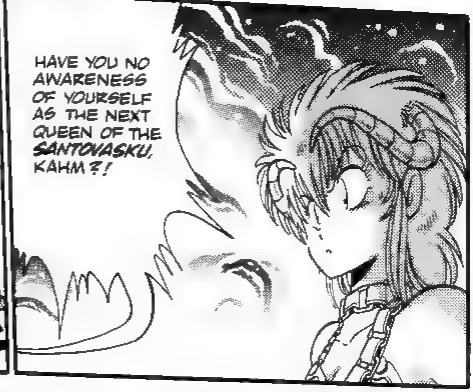
H-HEY! JUST WAIT A SECOND! LISTEN TO ME!
COME ON! AT LEAST GIVE ME A HEARING!

DAMN IT ALL...!
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL ME...! NOT AFTER I CAME ALL THIS WAY!!
TETSUYA!
DAMN IT, KAHM! THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU TOLD ME WOULD HAPPEN! DO SOMETHING!


WAIT! STOP! LET GO OF HIM!
WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME!
KAHM!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! YOU ARE A FOOL!

YOU HIDE FROM ME FOR ALL THIS TIME!
YOU STOW AWAY ON PROGRESSO'S SHIP! YOU DISRUPT HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND, INTERFERE WITH HIS MISSION...
...UNTIL HIS ENTIRE FLEET IS DESTROYED FOR LACK OF INTELLIGENCE DATA!

AND NOW WHEN YOU FINALLY DEIGN TO RETURN..
I MUST LISTEN TO THIS INSANITY ABOUT YOU MARRYING ONE OF THE ENEMY!


HAVE YOU NO AWARENESS OF YOURSELF AS THE NEXT QUEEN OF THE SANTOVASKU, KAHM?!

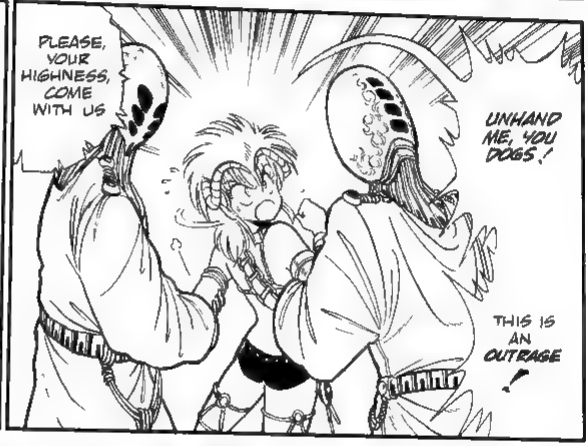
UNTIL NOW I'VE TOLERATED YOUR RASH AND PETULANT BEHAVIOR!
BUT NO MORE! THIS IS THE END!!

YOU ARE HEREBY FOREVER BARRED FROM LEAVING THIS PLANET!
AND WITHIN TWENTY DAYS, YOU WILL MARRY THE MAN OF MY CHOICE!

I WILL NOT!!
I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO AT LEAST CHOOSE THE MAN I'M GOING TO MARRY!
I REFUSE TO FOLLOW ANYBODY'S ORDERS! NOT EVEN YOURS!
KAHM!
PRINCESS, YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS!
OUT OF MY WAY, BISHOP!
LOOK INTO MY EYES, KAHM, PLEASE!
ALL THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED HAS BEEN BUT A DREAM .. A NIGHTMARE, PRINCESS.

KAHM!
TET--TETSUYA!
KAHM! LOOK AT ME!

LOCK HER IN HER ROOM! AND SEE THAT A SQUAD OF ROYAL GUARDS ARE PLACED AT THE DOOR!


PLEASE, YOUR HIGHNESS, COME WITH US
UNHAND ME, YOU DOGS!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

KAHM, YOU MUST FORGET HIM! FORGET THAT BOY!
I WON'T!

THIS IS FUTILE. I'VE NEVER SEEN HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS SO ENRAGED BEFORE!

LOOK INTO MY EYES, KAHM, AND FORGET FORGET THIS TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE..
N-NO... I..

I WON'T DO IT !!
I TOLD YOU TO LET ME GO !!
EEYAH!
FZZT
AIEEEE!
TETSUYA !
KAHM !

KAAAHM!
KAHM! ARE YOU OKAY?!
SPEAK TO ME!
KAHM!

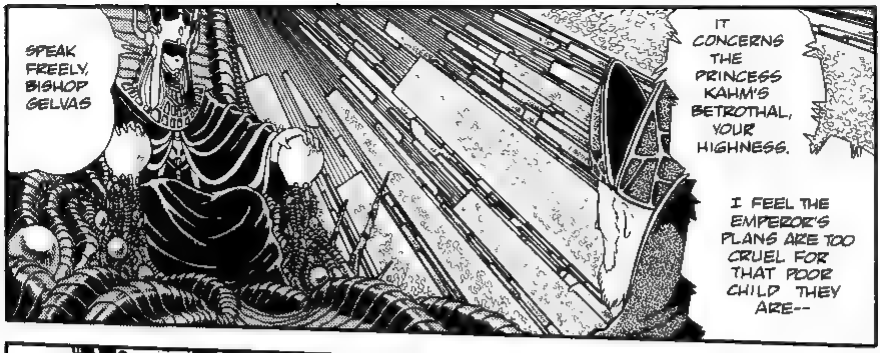
FREEZE

KREEEE
LET GO OF ME, YOU BASTARDS!
OH, JEEZ.. CAN'T YOU GUYS COME UP WITH A NICER WAY TO EXECUTE PEOPLE?!
KREEEEEEEEE
LOOK, Heh, heh... CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS?
OH, MAN. YOU CREEPS! I'LL COME BACK AND HAUNT YOU!
AIEE!
SKTCH

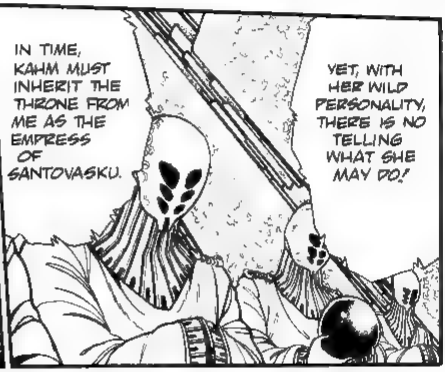
WAHH! WAHH!
WAAHH!!
SKNCH
KRAK
SCRUNCH
mnch mnch

AHH AHH WHA ?!
?
YOU.. YOU'RE--
KONK!
HOW IS SHE, BISHOP GELVAS ?
I IMAGINE SHE'S FURIOUS AT ME, AND TAKING IT OUT ON ALL THOSE AROUND HER..

FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT I HAVE FAILED DISMALLY--
--IN MY DUTIES AS THE PRINCESS' MENTOR AND TEACHER.
NO DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, GELVAS.
IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL I WAS SO ABSORBED IN MY OFFICIAL DUTIES THAT I NEVER GAVE HER THE ATTENTION SHE NEEDED..
AND BECAUSE I COULD NOT LOOK AFTER HER AS SHE DESERVED, I LET HER HAVE HER WAY IN ALL SHE WISHED TO DO.
AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT, SHE HAD TURNED INTO THIS.. THIS IMPOSSIBLE GIRL!
WELL I UNDERSTAND YOUR MAJESTY'S FEELINGS.
AND YET...
AND YET THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD SAY!
WELL, THEN-- SO BE IT SHE'LL CALM DOWN IN TIME.
DAMN IT ALL! IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY TIME I SEE HER, GELVAS!
YES, MY LORD


SPEAK FREELY, BISHOP GELVAS
IT CONCERNS THE PRINCESS KAHM'S BETROTHAL, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I FEEL THE EMPEROR'S PLANS ARE TOO CRUEL FOR THAT POOR CHILD THEY ARE--

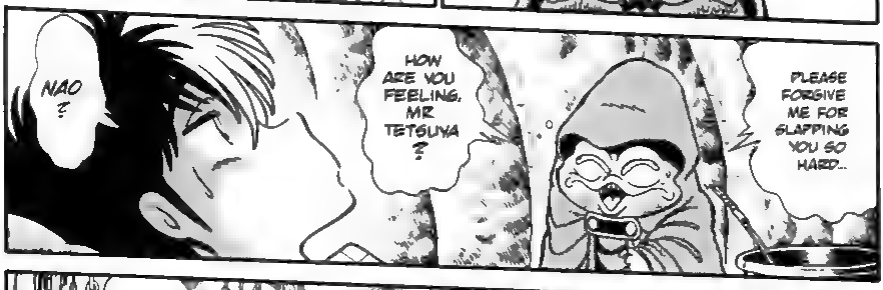
ENOUGH, GELVAS!
I KNOW THIS WELL. AND YET, WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?


IN TIME, KAHM MUST INHERIT THE THRONE FROM ME AS THE EMPRESS OF SANTOVASKU.
YET, WITH HER WILD PERSONALITY, THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT SHE MAY DO!

BY THE GODS, SHE HAS EVEN CHOSEN ONE OF THE ENEMY FOR HER HUSBAND-TO-BE! SHE CANNOT BE LEFT ON HER OWN!

FOR THIS REASON, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE PLACE A SOLID AND RELIABLE MAN AT HER SIDE.
YES. A SERIOUS, SOLEMN COUNSELLOR WHO, WITH KAHM AS EMPRESS, CAN BECOME THE ANCHOR OF OUR EMPIRE!

BISHOP, I WILL BE CHOOSING KAHM'S HUSBAND WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I EXPECT THAT I SHALL BE SEEKING YOUR ADVICE.
AS YOU WISH, MY LORD.



WERE YOU THE ONE WHO--

PLEASE DONT BE ANGRY WITH ME...

THERE WASN'T ANY TIME TO WASTE, SO I JUST **HAD** TO DO SOMETHING-- ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES!

HERE..
IT'S HOT NEKCIHC SOUP

I'M EVER SO SORRY... MY HUSBAND CAN BE SUCH AN IDIOT.
"HUSBAND"?
OH... THANKS!

HOW DOES IT TASTE, MR TETSUYA?
WOW! THIS IS REALLY GREAT! NO KIDDING!

BOINK
OH, HE'S SO POLITE!

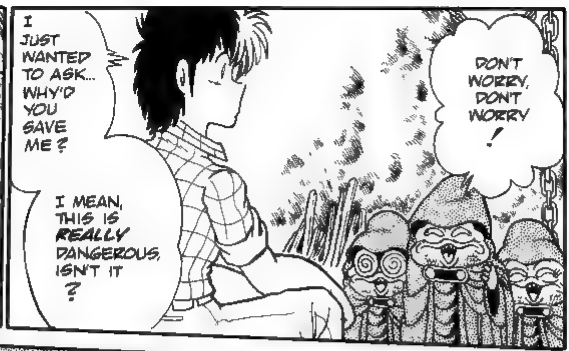
GEE.. SO YOU'RE NAO'S WIFE, Huh?
YES, DEAR.

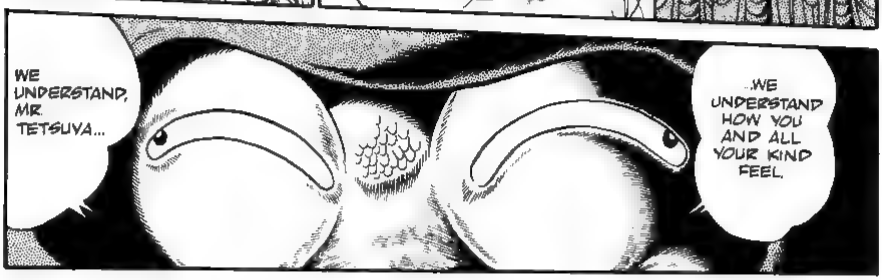
LET ME INTRODUCE MY WIFE, MOMO.
Heh Heh
TERRIBLE WIFE, REALLY... Ha Ha Ha...
OH, BOSS! YOU'RE SUCH A LADIES MAN!
NO FAIR! NO FAIR!

PAPA! PAPA!
Ah OF COURSE...

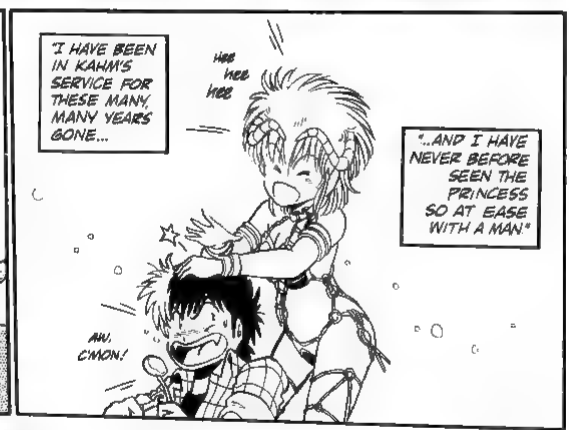
AND--ER-- THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, HERE ARE MY SONS, PON AND BON.
HI! HI!
THEY'RE YOUR SPITTING IMAGE!

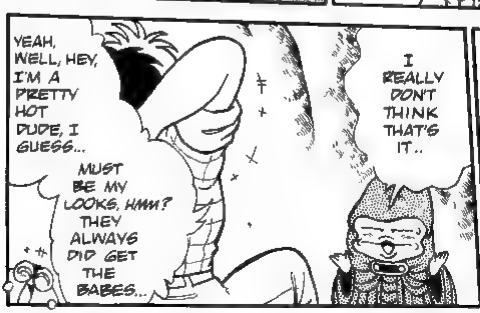
NAO...


I JUST WANTED TO ASK... WHY'D YOU SAVE ME?
I MEAN, THIS IS REALLY DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY!


WE UNDERSTAND, MR. TETSUYA...
...WE UNDERSTAND HOW YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND FEEL.

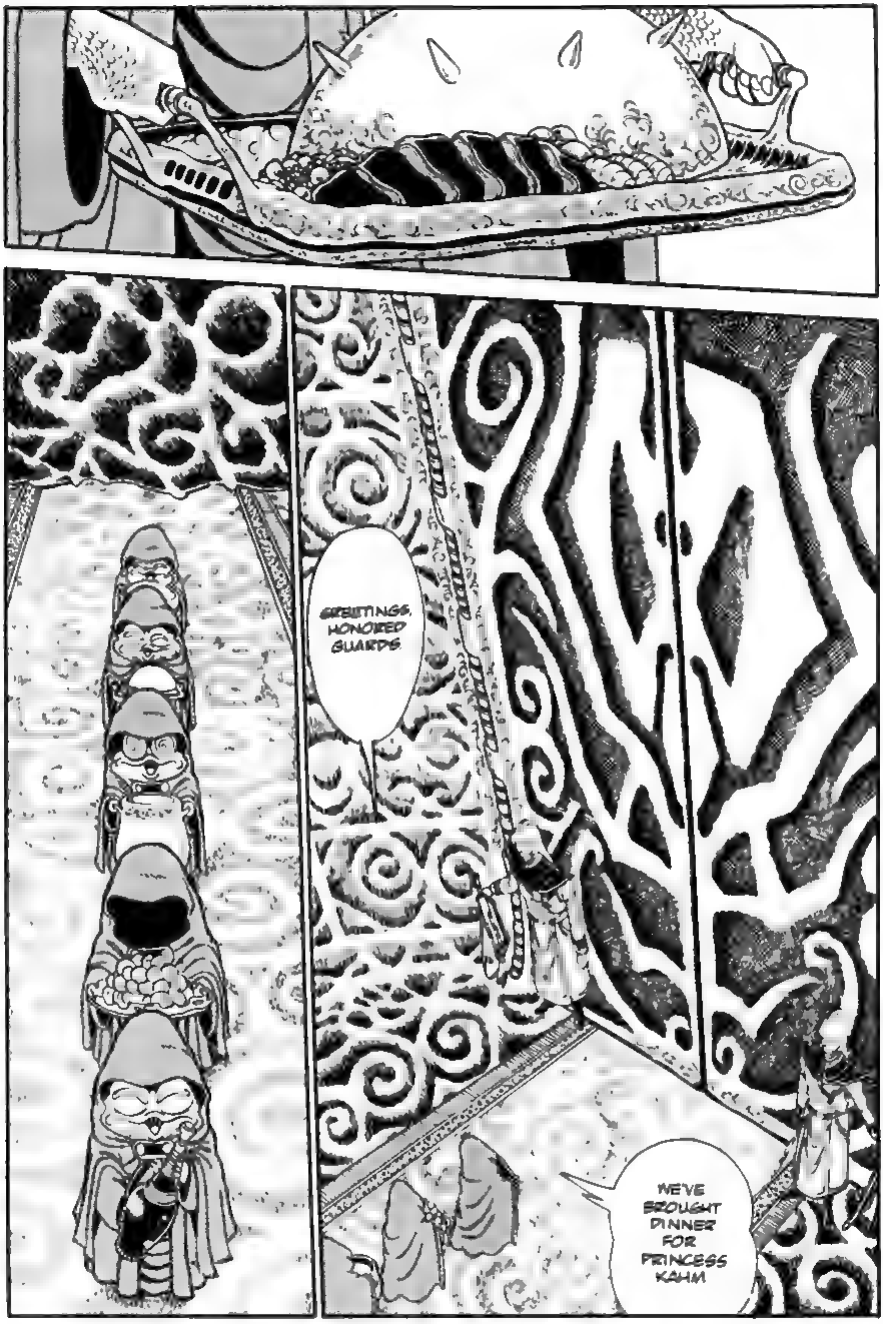
HUH?
AND THEN OF COURSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE OUR MISTRESS AND SAVIOR OF OUR LIVES, PRINCESS KAHM, BE SO SADDENED.

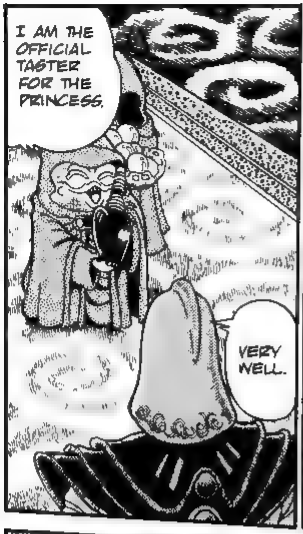

"I HAVE BEEN IN KAHM'S SERVICE FOR THESE MANY, MANY YEARS GONE...
HEE HEE HEE
"...AND I HAVE NEVER BEFORE SEEN THE PRINCESS SO AT EASE WITH A MAN."
AH, C'MON!


YEAH, WELL, HEY, I'M A PRETTY HOT DUDE, I GUESS...
MUST BE MY LOOKS, HMM? THEY ALWAYS DID GET THE BABES...
I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT'S IT..

OH, YEAH? SO WHAT IS?!
I'VE NO IDEA.

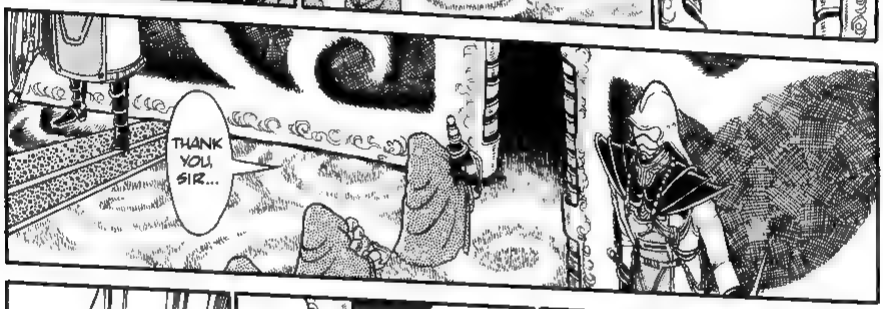
HEY!!
WE'VE GOT TO TELL KAHM THAT I'M ALL RIGHT!
WHERE IS SHE?
WE'VE GOT TO GO THERE!
POOR KAHM...SHE MUST BE FEELING TERRIBLE I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER AND TELL HER I'M OKAY..
LOOKS LIKE YOU AND KAHM ARE SHARING SOME FEELINGS...
WHA?
HEH, HEH! YOU'RE BLUSHING!
IT-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! IT'S NOT!
AW, COME ON-- YOU DON'T NEED TO HIDE IT!
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER, DEAR!
NOW, JUST HOLD ON A SEC!
NOW THEN, JUST CALM DOWN.
ANYWAY.. THESE ARE THE LOWER LEVELS OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE. IF YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM, YOU'LL BE CAUGHT IN A FLASH.
BUT DON'T WORRY... WE HAVE A PLAN.


GREETINGS, HONORED GUARDS
WE'VE BROUGHT DINNER FOR PRINCESS KAHM


I AM THE OFFICIAL TASTER FOR THE PRINCESS.
VERY WELL.

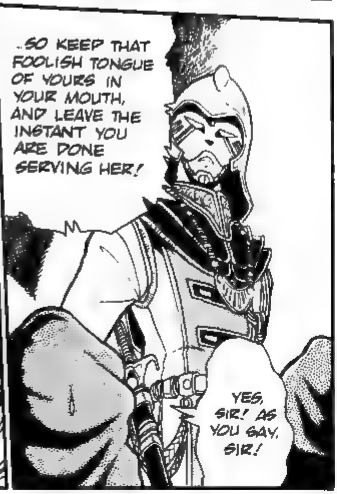
PRINCESS KAHM! PLEASE FORGIVE THIS INTRUSION!
IT IS TIME FOR YOUR MEAL!

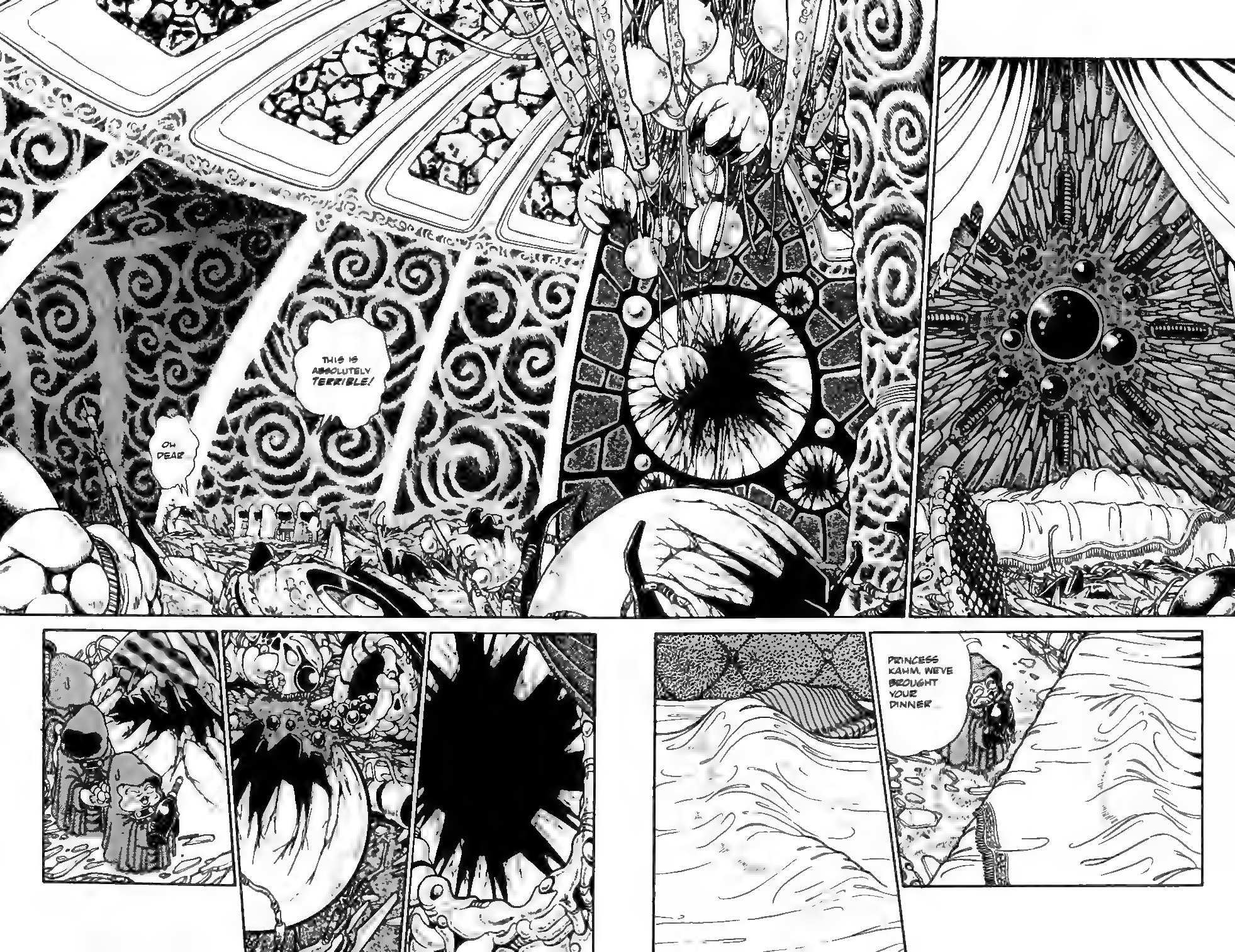
YOU MAY ENTER NOW.

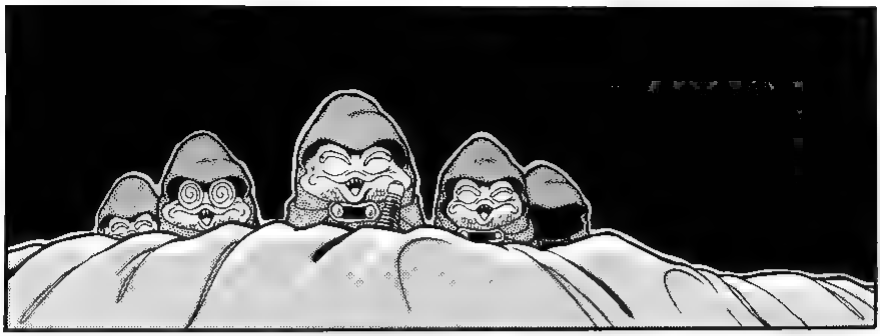

THANK YOU, SIR...

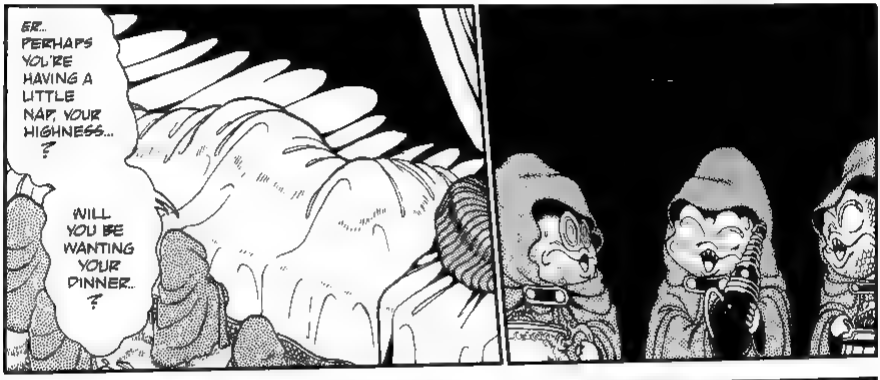
HALT!
ULP!

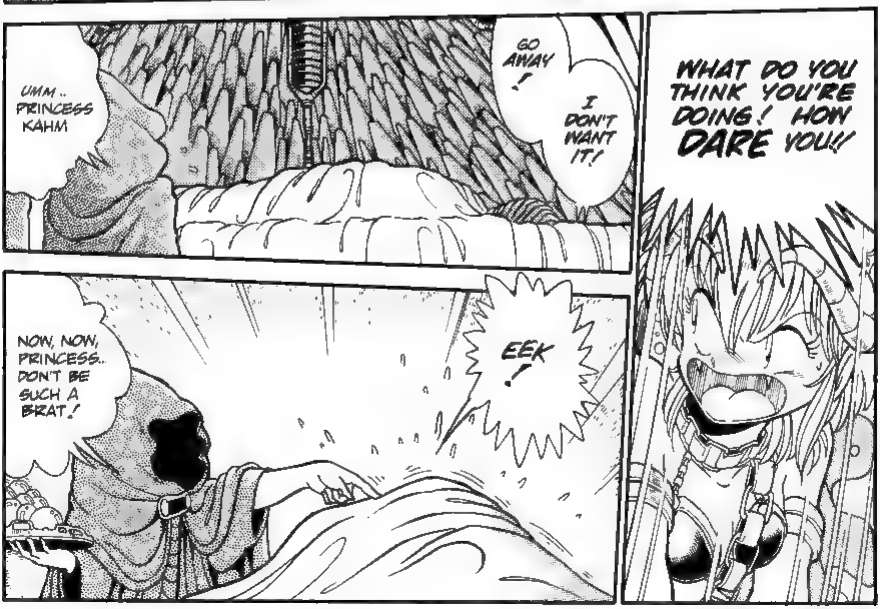
WH-WHAT IS IT?
THE PRINCESS IS IN A FOUL MOOD INDEED...


...SO KEEP THAT FOOLISH TONGUE OF YOURS IN YOUR MOUTH, AND LEAVE THE INSTANT YOU ARE DONE SERVING HER!
YES, SIR! AS YOU SAY, SIR!


OH DEAR
THIS IS ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE!
PRINCESS KAHM, WE'VE BROUGHT YOUR DINNER




ER.. PERHAPS YOU'RE HAVING A LITTLE NAP, YOUR HIGHNESS...?
WILL YOU BE WANTING YOUR DINNER..?


UMM.. PRINCESS KAHM
GO AWAY!
I DON'T WANT IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING! HOW DARE YOU!!
NOW, NOW, PRINCESS.. DON'T BE SUCH A BRAT!
EEK!

BLAAAAH!

HEH, HEH! SURPRISED YOU, HUH?
DON'T WORRY-- I'M NOT A ZOMBIE!

MAN, WHAT A PAIN!
DON'T EVER TRY WALKING ON YOUR KNEES FOR ABOUT A MILE...
...MY BACK IS KILLING ME!

STILL, HAVING SOMETHING "KILLING YOU" IS BETTER THAN BEING DEAD, HMM?

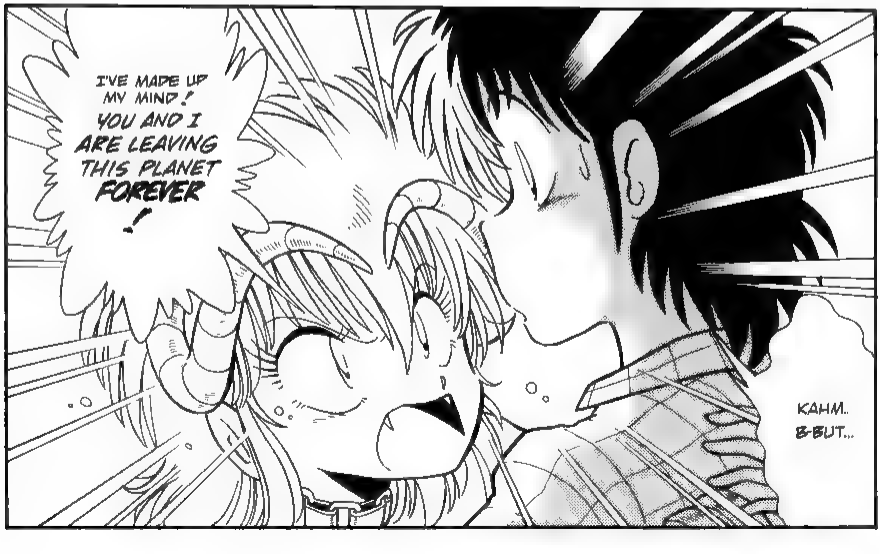
KAHM.
I...
YOU... YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
sniff
HNNG!
KRUNCH!
HRRK!
KRAK
ER.. KAHM...?
ARE YOU CRYING?
I'M NOT CRYING, YOU BIG JERK!
OH, YEAH... OKAY.

WELL, ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE ALL OUR PLANS HAVE GONE TO HELL, HUH?
UH-HMM.
:SNIFF:

I'M SORRY, TETSUYA I WAS REALLY STUPID

COME ON.. THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
BUT I DO WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO NOW..

LET'S GO
HUH?

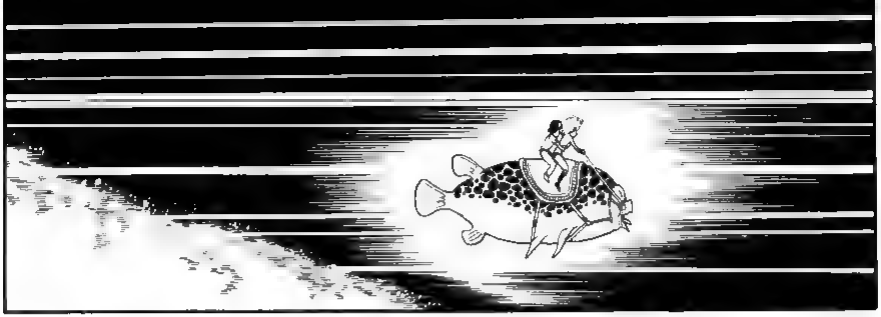

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! YOU AND I ARE LEAVING THIS PLANET FOREVER!
KAHM.. B-BUT...

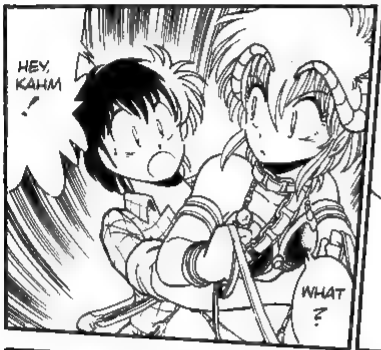
EMERGENCY ALERT! EMERGENCY ALERT!
AN ALIEN PRISONER HAS ESCAPED! IT HAS ATTACKED THE PRINCESS KAHM IN HER CHAMBERS AND HAS TAKEN HER PRISONER!
THE PALACE IS NOW ON LEVEL ONE RED ALERT! REPEAT, LEVEL ONE RED ALERT!!
THE ALIEN IS ARMED AND DANGEROUS! PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION!
SHOOT TO KILL!
HOWEVER, ALL UNITS ARE ADVISED THAT THE SAFETY OF THE PRINCESS IS PARAMOUNT! PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

WHAT?! YOU HAVEN'T FOUND HER YET?!
I AM SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME ERROR..
HOWEVER, WE ARE CERTAIN THEY ARE STILL WITHIN THE PALACE. I SWEAR THAT WE SHALL RESCUE THE PRINCESS UNHARMED!
BUT, MY LORD--EVEN IF THE PRINCESS IS INDEED A HOSTAGE...
...SURELY YOU REALIZE THAT A RESCUE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN HER BEING INJURED?
INCOMPETENT FOOLS! WHY WAS THAT VERMIN STILL ALIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
THEN SO BE IT! IF SHE'S HURT A LITTLE, THEN SO MUCH THE BETTER!
M-MY LORD...?
KAHM SO YOU'VE FINALLY TURNED AGAINST ME, HAVE YOU?

YOING!
YOING!
COULDN'T YOU FIND US A BETTER RIDE?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!
PRINCESS KAHM!

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO TAKE US WITH YOU ?
WHAT CHOICE HAVE I GOT ?
IF DADDY FINDS OUT YOU HELPED US, YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE TRIBE WILL BE PUT TO DEATH!
AND HOW ABOUT OUR REQUEST ?
GRANTED! AS LONG AS WE GET OFF THIS PLANET!
UNDERSTOOD! BUT IN THAT CASE, WE HAVE TO GO COLLECT THE OTHERS!
WELL, THEN, BE QUICK ABOUT IT! I'LL TRY TO BUY YOU SOME TIME!
WHOA !
WE'LL RENDEZVOUS WITH YOU AT THE IMPERIAL SPACEDOCKS !
GOOD LUCK !

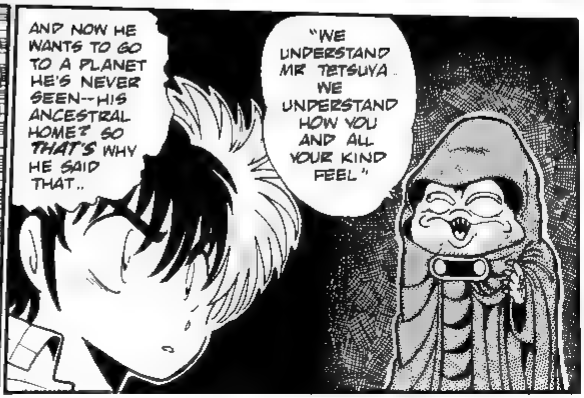


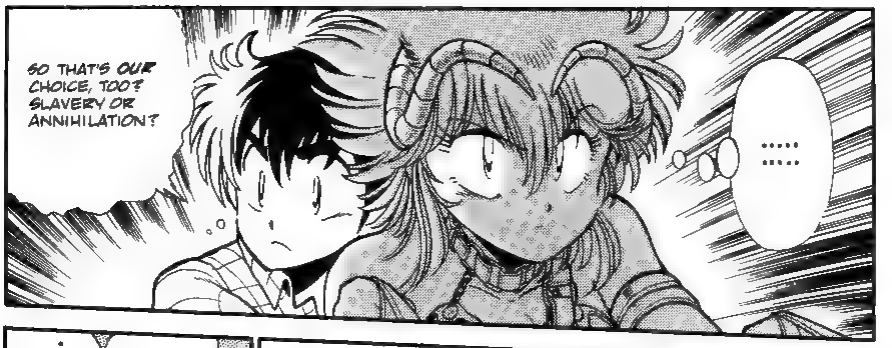

HEY, KAHM!
WHAT?

NAO SAID HE WANTED TO GO BACK TO HIS PLANET... WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
NAO AND HIS PEOPLE COME FROM THE PLANET NANYANEN
"NANYANEN"..?

IT'S A PLANET WE CONQUERED WAY BACK IN MY GRANDFATHER'S DAYS.
THE INHABITANTS WERE CALLED THE NUBA FOLK--THEY WERE SO DOCILE THEY DIDN'T EVEN RESIST, SO WE BROUGHT SOME BACK TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET FOR SERVANTS.

THEY WERE NAO'S ANCESTORS.


AND NOW HE WANTS TO GO TO A PLANET HE'S NEVER SEEN--HIS ANCESTRAL HOME? SO THAT'S WHY HE SAID THAT..
"WE UNDERSTAND MR TETSUYA. WE UNDERSTAND HOW YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND FEEL"


SO THAT'S OUR CHOICE, TOO? SLAVERY OR ANNIHILATION?
.....
.....

DON'T GIVE UP, TETSUYA...
THERE MUST STILL BE SOME WAY TO END THIS WAR

HEY, I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP!
IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT

WELL, LET'S ESCAPE FIRST, THEN WE CAN THINK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

YEAH! AND WHAT ABOUT THAT, KAHM?! CAN YOU REALLY GET AWAY WITH THIS? YOUR FATHER IS GONNA GO BERSERK, YOU KNOW!

I REALLY DON'T CARE, TETSUYA.

ANYWAY...

ARE YOU SURE THAT IT WAS **BATTIA** WHO SAVED YOU?

SURE AS I CAN BE I DIDN'T REALLY SEE HER MYSELF, BUT THAT'S WHAT NAO SAID.

SO...THIS WAS ALL BATTIA'S DOING

YEAH...AND AFTER ALL THOSE THINGS SHE SAID ABOUT ME, TOO.

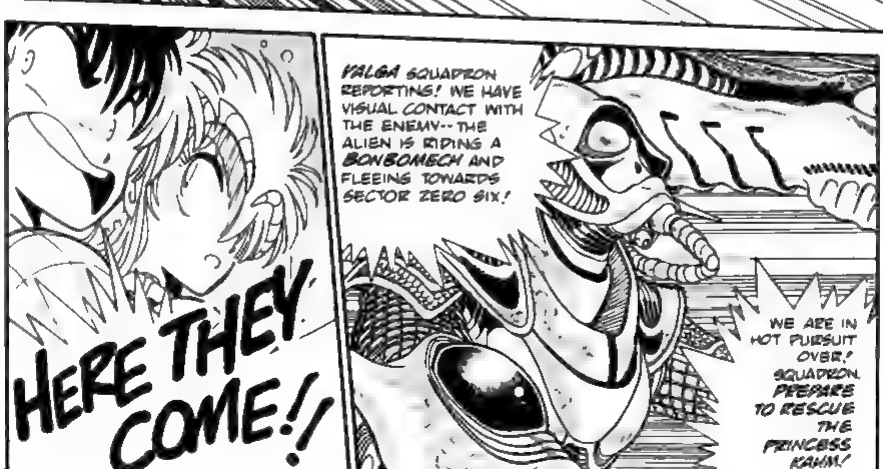
GUESS I OWE HER MY LIFE!

"THANK YOU, BATTIA..

"I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE, BUT GOOD LUCK TO YOU, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE..."

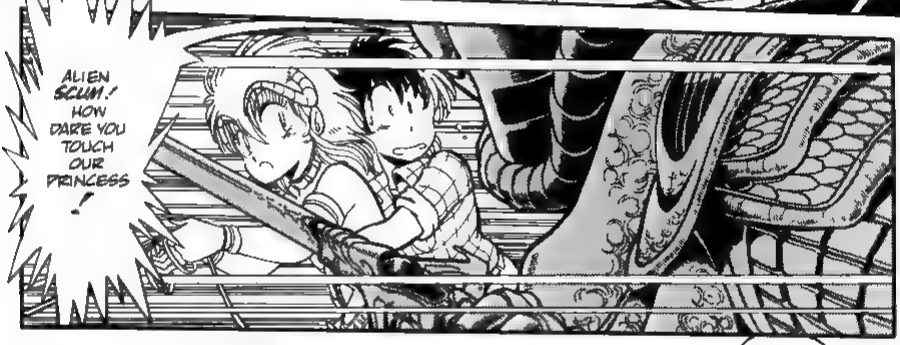
!

VINSSHHH!


HERE THEY COME!!
VALGA SQUADRON REPORTING! WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY-- THE ALIEN IS RIDING A BONBOMECH AND FLEEING TOWARDS SECTOR ZERO SIX!
WE ARE IN HOT PURSUIT OVER! SQUADRON, PREPARE TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS KAHM!

COME ON! CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER ?!
YOING!
SMAK
AIEEE! IT'S NO GOOD, KAHM! THEY'RE TOO DAMNED FAST!
SQUEE
THEY'RE GONNA BE RIGHT ON US IN A MINUTE!
YAIEE!
WHOOSH

PRINCESS KAHM!

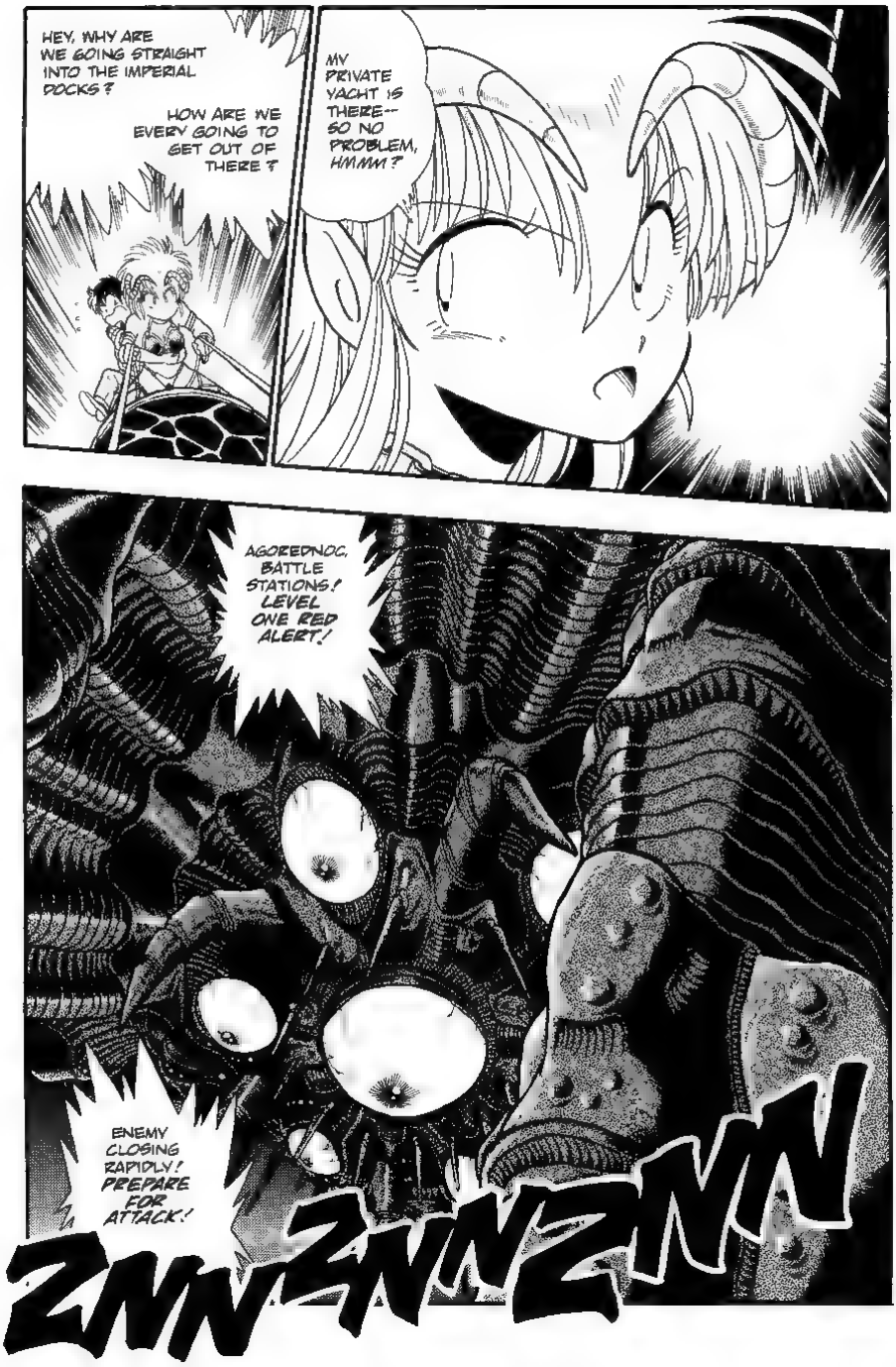

ALIEN SCUM! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH OUR PRINCESS!

OOOHH! HELP ME, SERGEANT! THE ALIEN'S TRYING TO KIDNAP ME! HELLLP!!
HUH?! HEY! KAHM, WHAT TH--?!

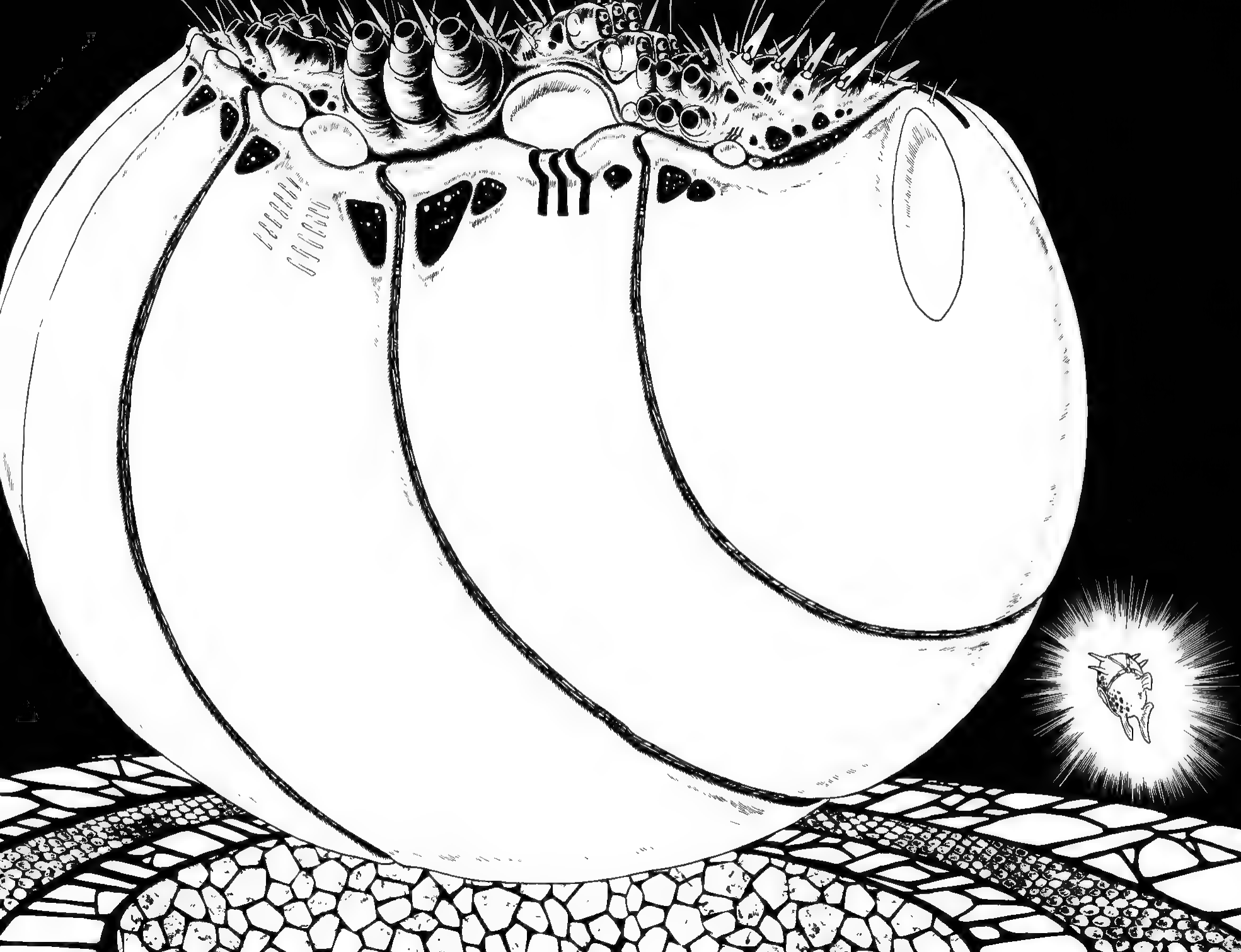
PRINCESS! JUMP OVER HERE! I'LL SAVE YOU!
I SWEAR BY MY LIFE I WILL PROTECT YOU!

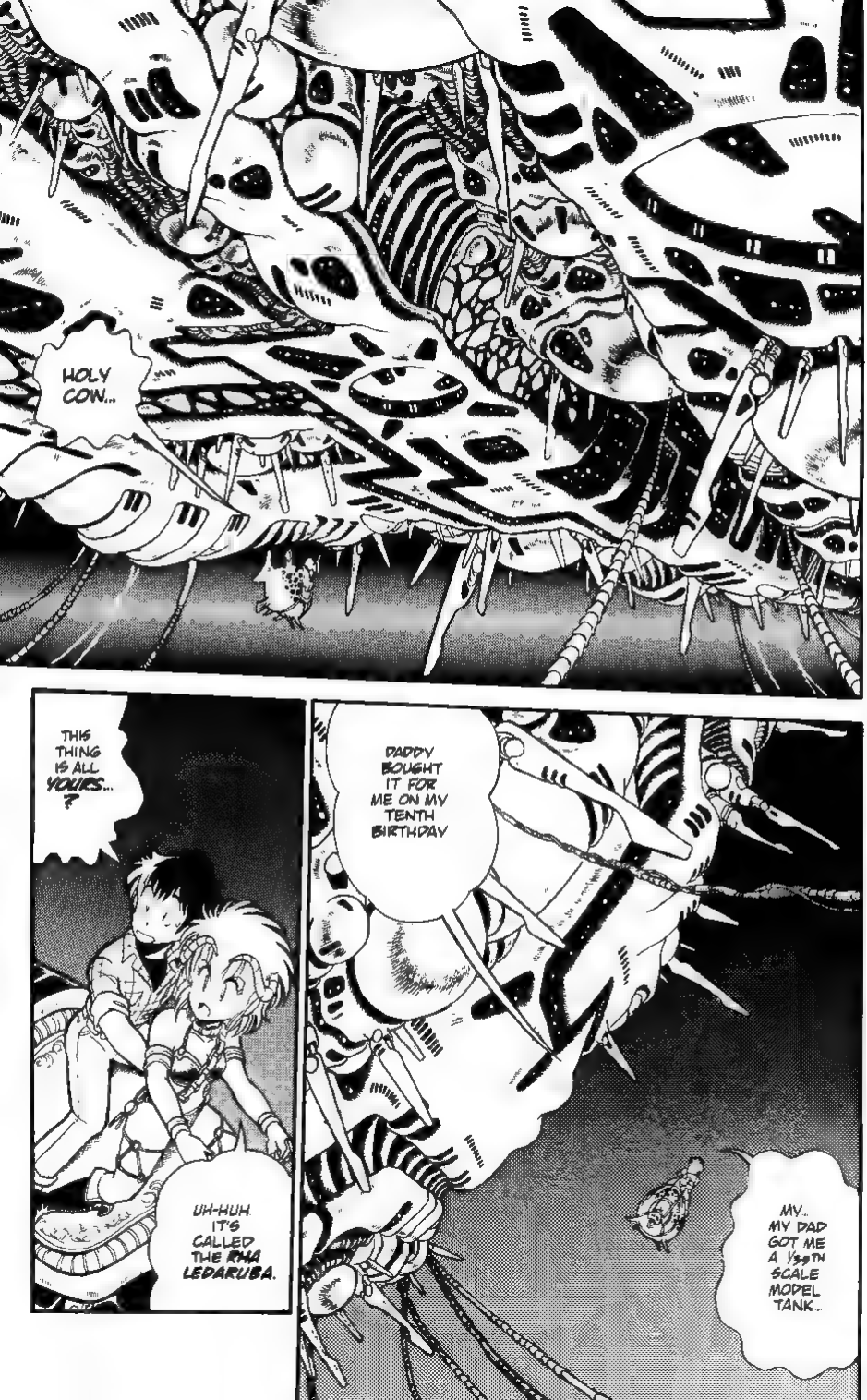
OH, REALLY..?

WHOOM!
MAN... THAT'S PRETTY SEVERE!
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY
I'LL GIVE HIM A RAISE, ALL RIGHT?
WARNING! THE ALIEN THAT KIDNAPPED PRINCESS KAHM HAS BREACHED TRACK THREE OF THE PALACE OUTER SHELL!
FORCE HIM INTO THE IMPERIAL DOCKS!
WE HAVE AN ASOREDNOC ON DUTY THERE!


HEY, WHY ARE WE GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE IMPERIAL DOCKS?
HOW ARE WE EVERY GOING TO GET OUT OF THERE?
MY PRIVATE YACHT IS THERE-- SO NO PROBLEM, HMMM?
AGOREDNOC, BATTLE STATIONS! LEVEL ONE RED ALERT!
ENEMY CLOSING RAPIDLY! PREPARE FOR ATTACK!
ZNNZNNZNN

SHHOOOSH!
JEEZ! AREN'T WE THERE, YET? SURE IS FAR!
ALMOST, ALMOST! BUT, TETSUYA, COULD YOU DO A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR ME. ?
COULD YOU...UHM... MOVE YOUR HANDS UP JUST A LITTLE ? ♡
SAY WHAT... ?
AW, KAHM !
HEE HEE HEE.
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY THINK OF THINGS LIKE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?!




HOLY COW...
THIS THING IS ALL YOURS...?
UH-HUH IT'S CALLED THE RHA LEDARUBA.
DADDY BOUGHT IT FOR ME ON MY TENTH BIRTHDAY
MY... MY DAD GOT ME A 1/35TH SCALE MODEL TANK...

PRINCESS KAHM!
IT'S NAO!
LOOKS LIKE HE MANAGED TO GET THE WHOLE TRIBE.
ALL RIGHT! HERE WE GO!
HYAH!
PRINCESS KAHM! BEHIND YOU! LOOK BEHIND YOU!!
Huh?

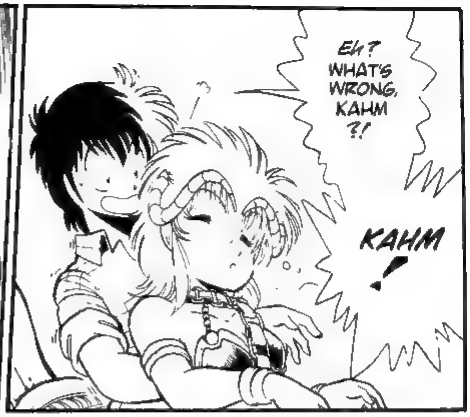
AIEE!

AN AGOREDNOC!
WHISSH
YAEE!
YOING! YOING!
YAHH!
KAHM! IT GOT US!
WHMP THDD
HYAH!
HYAH, YOU STUPID CREATURE!
KAHM, STOP! DON'T TRY IT!

TRAPPED!
TRAPPED LIKE RATS!
!
Uhhh...
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG? KAHM!
D-DON'T LOOK INTO ITS EYES..!
WHA.?
TETSUYA! I SAID DON'T LOOK!
TAKE THAT!!
FIZZZT

BTHOOM
NOW!
GRAAAA
AAAAA

KAHM! YOU DID IT !!
WOW! YOUR POWERS ARE REALLY INCREDIBLE !
UHNN...


EH? WHAT'S WRONG, KAHM ?!
KAHM !

THE...THE AGOREDNOC IS A SPECIES OF GIANT PREDATOR...
HUH ?
THEY TRAP THEIR PREY WITH THEIR LEGS, THEN HYPNOTIZE THEM WITH THE MAIN EYE...
...AND THIS ONE GOT ME, TETSUYA...

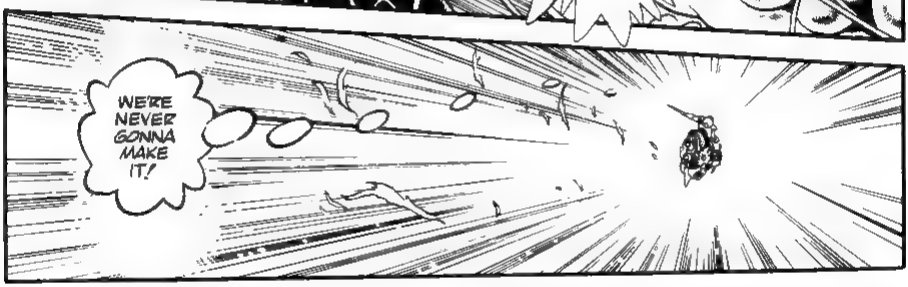
I...I CAN'T STAY AWAKE...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER...
T-T-TAKE OVER? TAKE OVER WHAT ?!?

DAMN IT... WELL, NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, ANYWAY.

ZNNZNNZN
EVEN I CAN GET US THE LAST FEW--

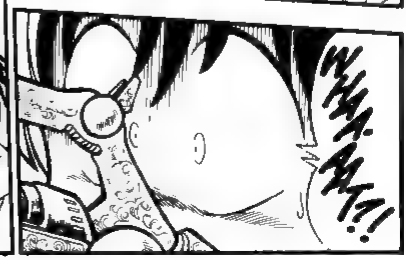
ZWIN
ZWIN
AIEEE!!
SQUAD SIX, ATTACK SPEED!
DO NOT USE YOUR GUNS! YOU MIGHT HIT THE PRINCESS!
ALL RIGHT, I'M OUTA HERE!
KAHM! WAKE UP! AN, KAHM!!
WHISSH
ZWIN ZWIN

WHISS
YEEK!


WE'RE NEVER GONNA MAKE IT!

DAMN IT! WE DIDN'T MAKE IT THIS FAR JUST TO GET CAUGHT NOW!

BANG!
KLIK KLIK


WHA-AA!!!

WHAT IN THE HELL ?!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?! THIS IS A RIFLE, RIGHT?!
SO SHOOT WHEN I PULL THE TRIGGER, WILL YA?!
KCHAK KCHAK
!!

KOOM
GHAAH!
I...

FKOOM FKOOM
DAMN IT!
MORE OF THEM!
GET BACK! GET BACK OR I'LL KILL YOU!!
FKOOM
FKOOM

FKOOM
GHAAA!
huhh
huhh
huhh
WAAHH!
WAAHH!
I SH--
I SHO--
I SHOT THOSE GUYS... I KILLED THEM!
OH MY GOD! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
I'M A KILLER!
I'M A MURDERER!
A MURDERER!!
MR. TETSUYA, SIR! MR. TETSUYA! THIS WAY!
AIEE!
GET OVER TO THE SHIP! QUICKLY!

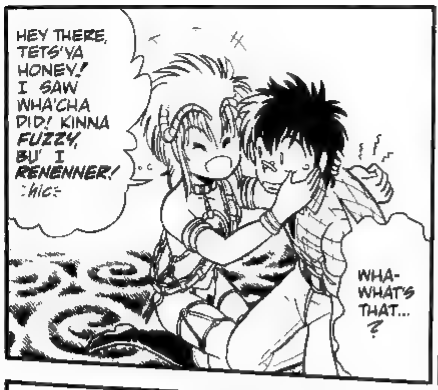
I KILLED ANOTHER PERSON! WITH MY OWN HANDS!
=huff=
=huff=
=huff=
NO! I KILLED FOUR OF THEM!
PRINCESS KAHM IS UNCONSCIOUS!
GET SOMETHING TO BRING HER TO! SOME KIND OF STRONG DRINK!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, BOY! IT WAS A LEGITIMATE ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE! THAT'S IT! SELF-DEFENSE!
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS... AFTER ALL, THOSE MANIACS WERE TRYING TO KILL ME!
QUICKLY! QUICKLY!

!!

KAHM! THANK GOD! I--

COME ON, KAHM! SNAP OUT OF IT! IT'S ME! TETSUYA!
?!
GLPGLPGLP
EEP!
UH, KAHM...?
HEY...
ULP...!
WHAZZA MATTA, HAH? WHODDA YA LOOKIN' SO W'RRIED 'BOUT? I HIC: N'VER FELD BEDD'R IN M' LIFE!
WHAP
WHAT DID YOU GIVE HER, YOU IDIOT?!
ER... LOOKS LIKE THAT REALLY STRONG STUFF, BOSS...


HEY THERE, TETS'YA HONEY! I SAW WHA'CHA DID! KINNA FUZZY, BU' I RENENNER! :hic:
WHA-WHAT'S THAT...?

WHADDA YA MEAN, "WHAZZAT?"...!
I :hic: I SAW YA FIGHTIN' T' PROTEC' POOR LIL' OL' ME!

AN' YOU WRE JUS' GREAT! :hic:
KONK
KONK

EH HEH HEH
I FELL 'N LOVE ALL OVR AGAIN!

PRINCESS KAHM! MORE GUARDS ARE ON THE WAY! WE HAVE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
OH MY!
OH MY!
EEEK!

SURE, SURE..
AW RIGH'!! LES' GET THIS SHOW ONNA ROAD!!
BUT TETSUYA..! "FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK"..!

I'M OKAY! I'M ¡HIC! OKAY!

ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN--

HEY! WATCH IT! YOU CAN'T--

I'M FINE, JUS' FINE!

WAMP

RIP

WELL? WHAT DID I TELL YOU!

OWIE OWIE I SMUSH'D MY NOSE!

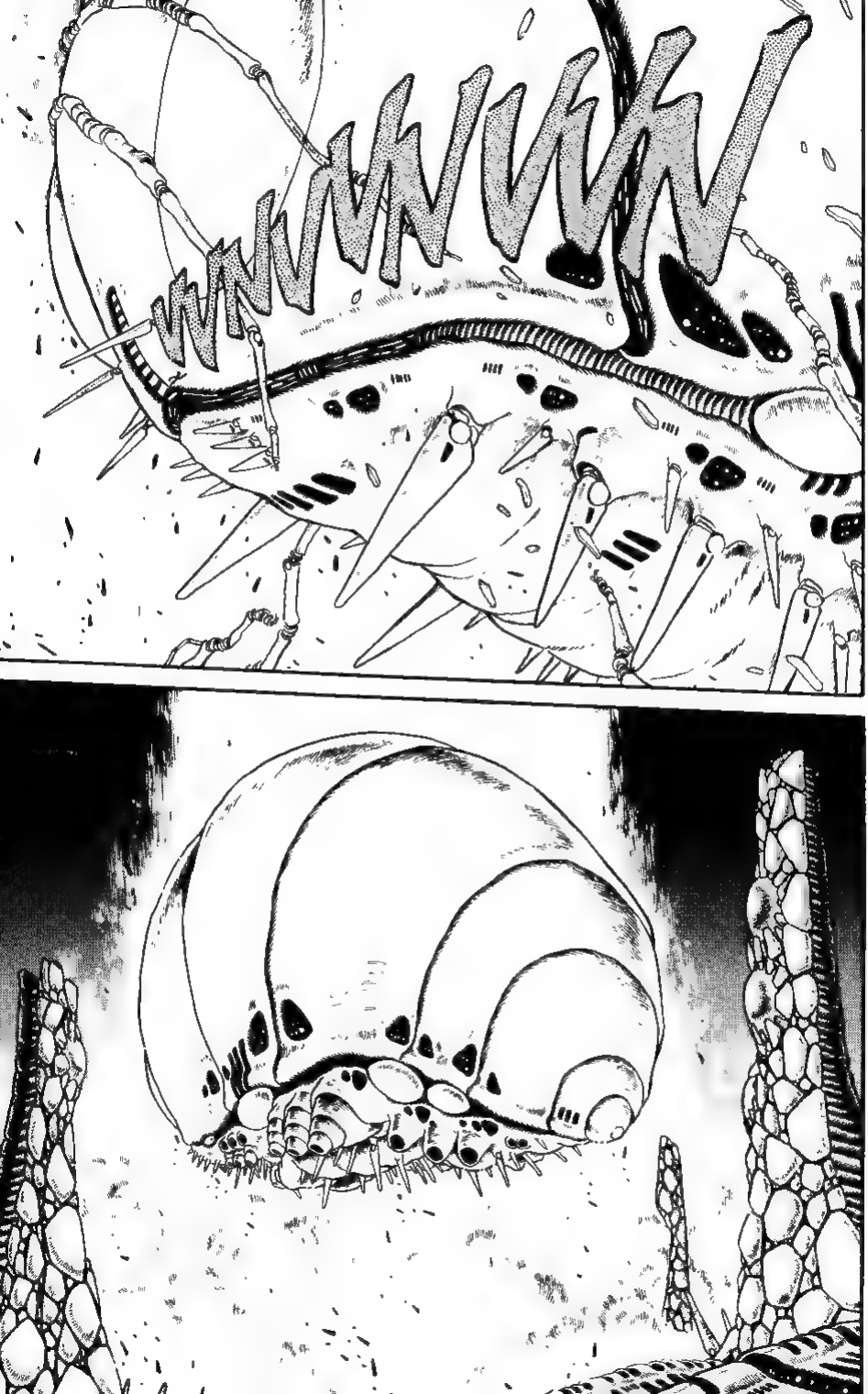
TEN-SHUN!!
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR US TO FIGHT IN AID OF PRINCESS KAHM!
THE FUTURE OF THE NUBA TRIBE HANGS UPON THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THIS ESCAPE ATTEMPT!
SQUADS ONE AND TWO, TAKE THE ENGINE ROOMS! MONITOR THE PRESSURE VALVES!
THREE OF YOU COME WITH ME! WE'LL ASSIST THE PRINCESS!
THE REST OF YOU, CHECK THE OTHER SHIP SYSTEMS!
TO YOUR STATIONS! GO!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
HIC!
VREEEE

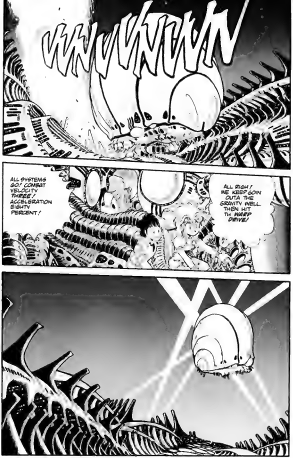
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! YOU'RE STILL DRUNK!
AW, C'MON! EVER'THIN'S MORE FUN WH'N Y'R HICS SMASHZED! I'LL BE OKAY INNA :: COUPLE MINNITS, ANYWAY!
WWWNNN
!
WNNNNNNN

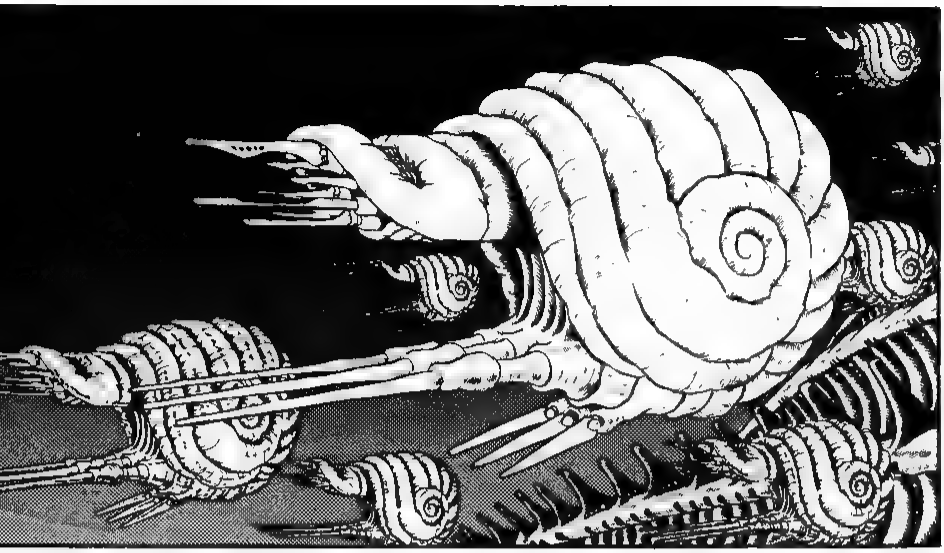
CONTROL VALVES OPEN FULL! PRESSURE STABILIZED!
INITIATE ENERGY INDUCTION TUBE FEED!
UH, GEE... IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP ?
JUS' COME OV'R HERE...
SO WHA-- HUH ?
YOU DON' HAVE T' DO ANNYTHIN', HONEY! JUS' STAY BY M'SIDE, 'KAY?! ♡
HEY! CUT IT OUT!
O-HIC-
OKAY...
...LEZ' GO!!!

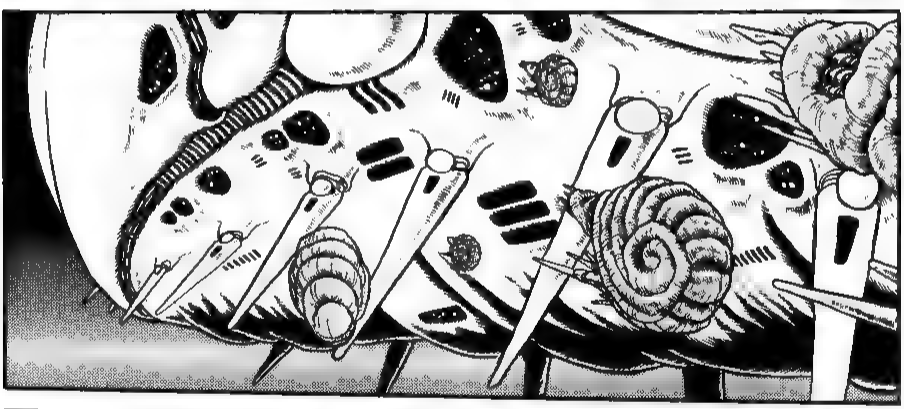
WHKOOOMM
AAHH!
VVN VVN VVN
WHAT TH--?!
IT'S A SHIP!! PRINCESS KAHM'S YACHT IS TAKING OFF!
VRNN VRNN
THE EXIT! SEAL THE DOCKING BAY EXIT!

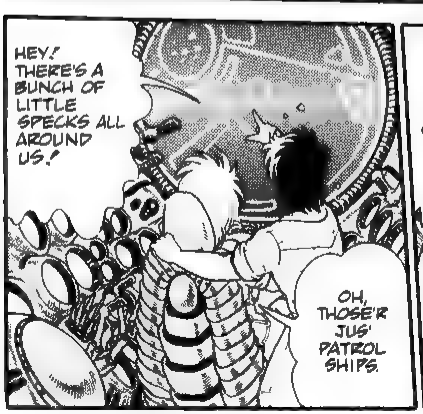
BKROOM

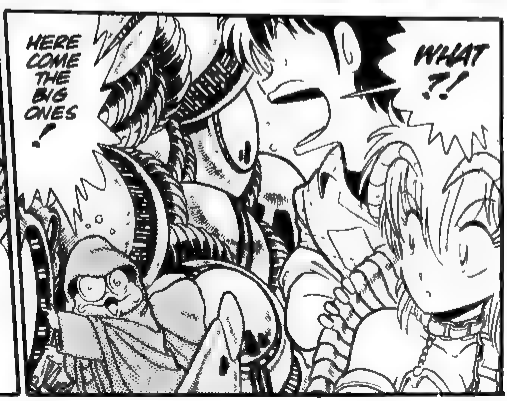

WWWWW


ALL SYSTEMS GO! COMBAT VELOCITY THREE! ACCELERATION EIGHTY PERCENT!
ALL RIGH'! WE KEEP GOIN' OUTA THE GRAVITY WELL, THEN HIT TH WARP DRIVE!



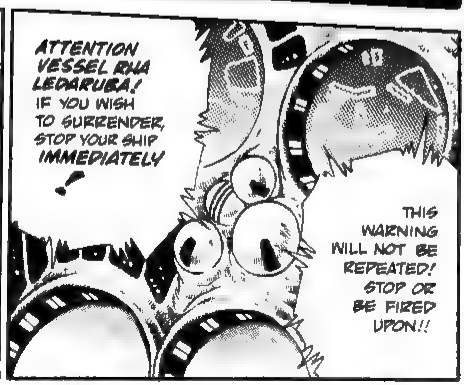


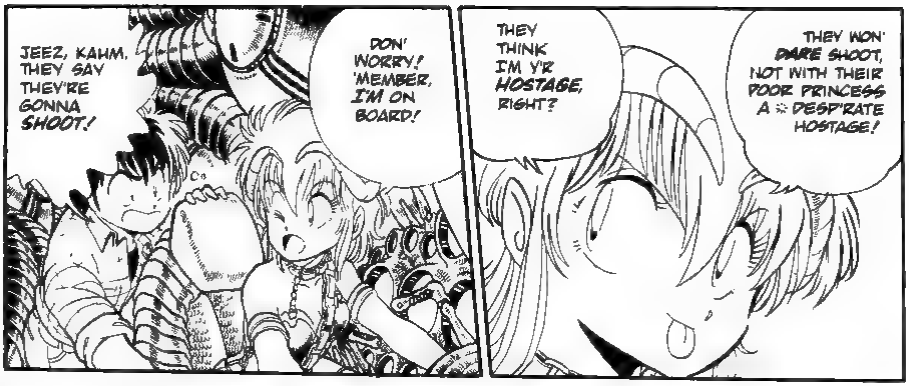

HEY! THERE'S A BUNCH OF LITTLE SPECKS ALL AROUND US!
OH, THOSE'R JUS' PATROL SHIPS.

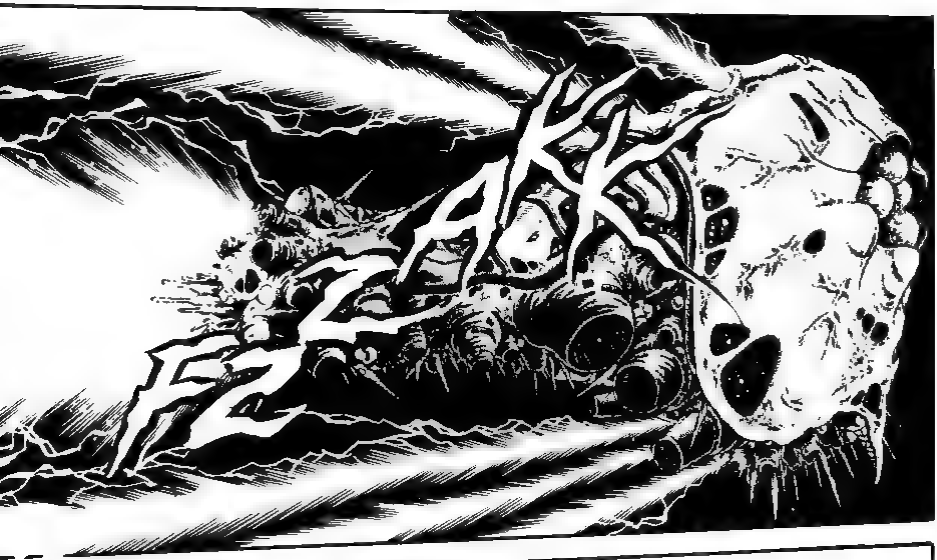

HERE COME THE BIG ONES!
WHAT ?!

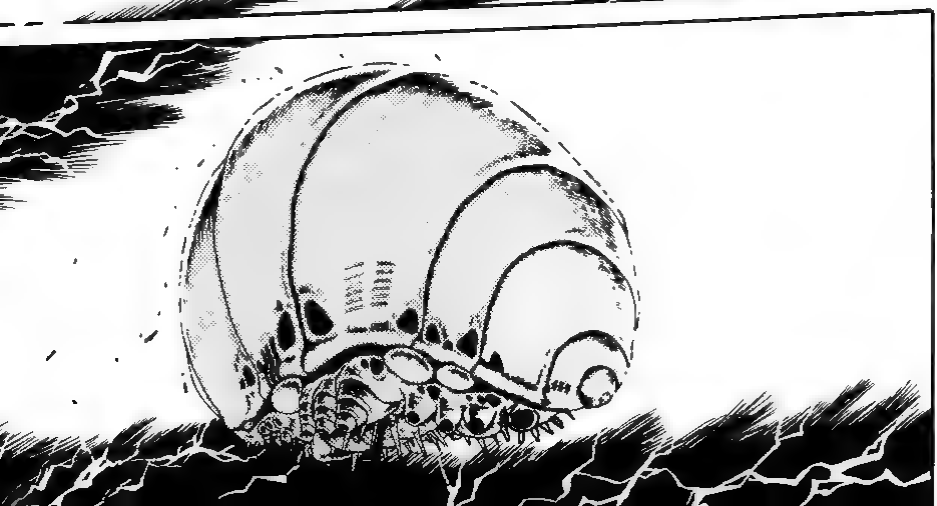
GNGNGN

OH SHIT! NO! BATTLESHIPS FROM THE IMPERIAL AIR DEFENSE!
LOOKS LIKE THEY MEAN BUSINESS, TOO!

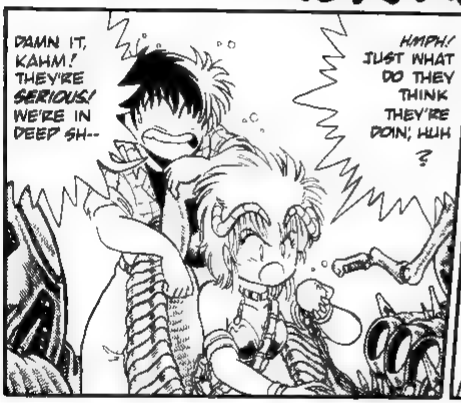

ATTENTION VESSEL RUA LEDARUBA! IF YOU WISH TO SURRENDER, STOP YOUR SHIP IMMEDIATELY!
THIS WARNING WILL NOT BE REPEATED! STOP OR BE FIRED UPON!!


JEEZ, KAHM. THEY SAY THEY'RE GONNA SHOOT!
DON' WORRY! 'MEMBER, I'M ON BOARD!
THEY THINK I'M Y'R HOSTAGE, RIGHT?
THEY WON' DARE SHOOT, NOT WITH THEIR POOR PRINCESS A DESP'RATE HOSTAGE!


FZZZAAK



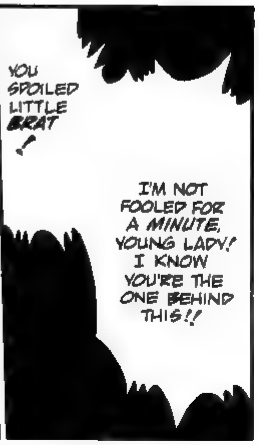
BKOOM
YA-EE!
THAT WAS YOUR ONLY WARNING!
STOP NOW, OR THE NEXT ONE GOES STRAIGHT THROUGH YOUR HULL!
RMBRMBRMB


DAMN IT, KAHM! THEY'RE SERIOUS! WE'RE IN DEEP SH--
HMPH! JUST WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOIN', HUH?

NOW JUST LOOK HERE! WHO DO YOU :HIC: PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE?!?
I HAPPEN TO BE ON BOARD THIS SHIP, YOU KNOW! ME! THE PRINCESS KAHM!!

FOOL!!
EEEK!

D-D-DADDY...!


YOU SPOILED LITTLE BRAT!
I'M NOT FOOLED FOR A MINUTE, YOUNG LADY! I KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND THIS!!

I SEE THAT I WAS MISTAKEN TO EVER EXPECT YOU TO LIVE UP TO YOUR DUTIES!!

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH, KAHM !!

IF YOU CONTINUE TO DISOBEY ME--

--I WILL SHOW YOU NO MERCY, EVEN THOUGH YOU BE MY OWN DAUGHTER!!

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!

JUST SHUT UP !!!!

SPRAKK

CONTACT THE PURSUIT UNITS !

TELL THEM TO DESTROY HER ENGINES AND STOP THE SHIP THEN BOARD THE VESSEL AND ARREST EVERYONE !

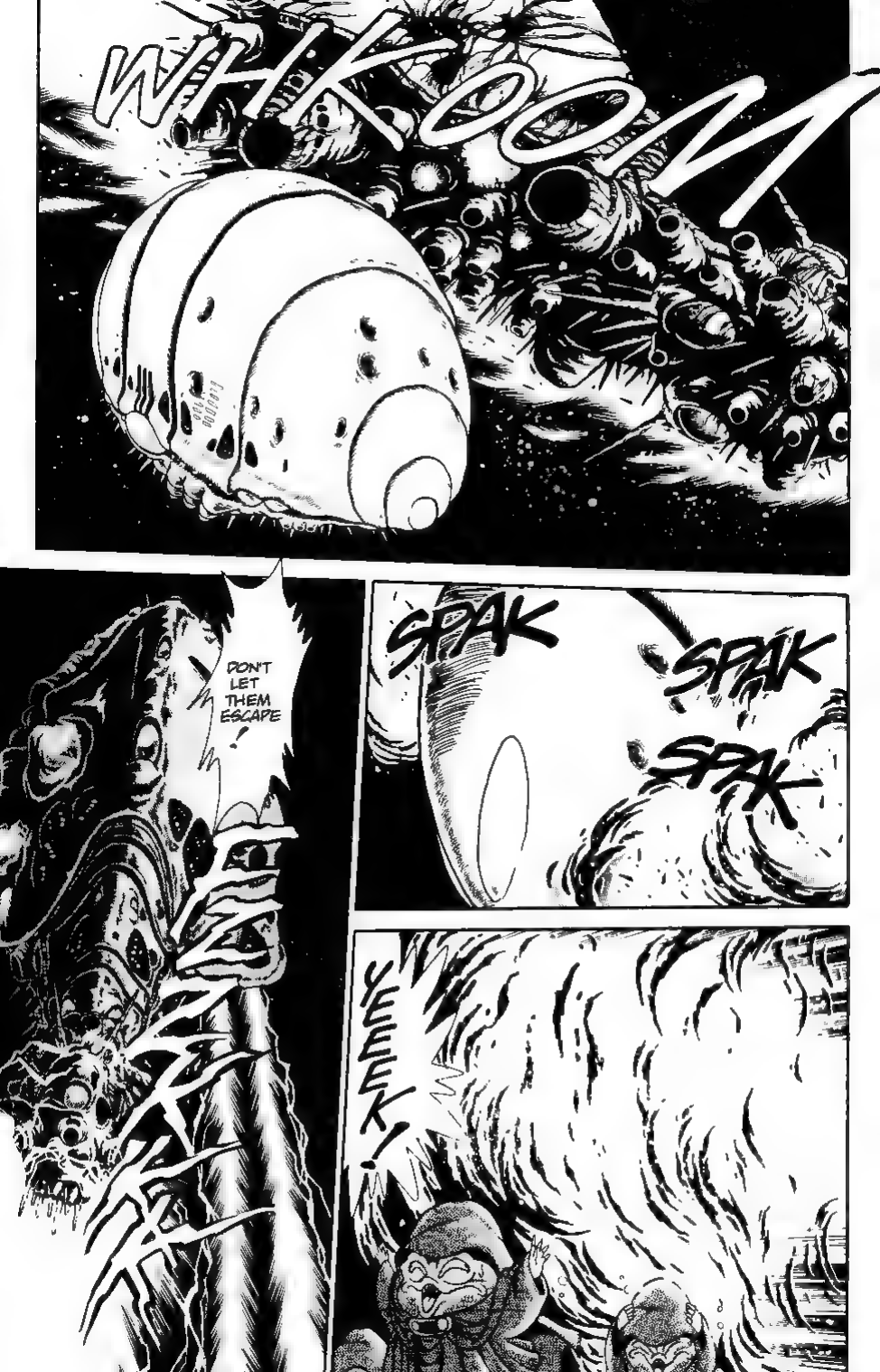
IF THEY NEED TO USE FORCE, THEN LET THEM DO SO!!

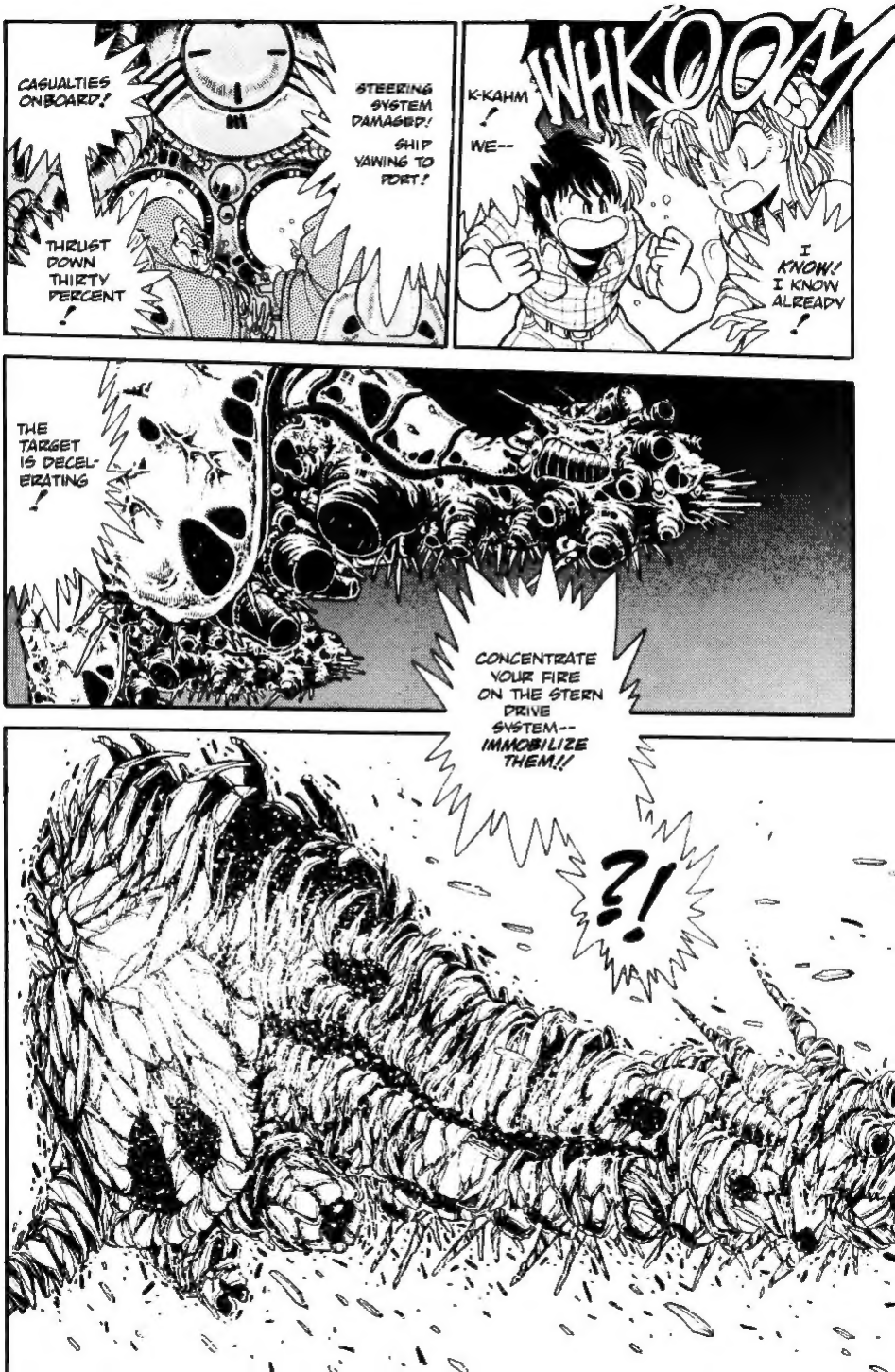
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS !

DON'T SAY IT, BISHOP !

EKOOM
WHBOOM
AIEE!
I WILL NOT GIVE UP!!
WHBOOM
ZKKK
WHMM
BAOOM

ENEMY WARSHIP OFF OUR BOW!
THEY'RE TRYING TO CUT US OFF!
OH, YEAH?! EAT THIS!!
FZZAKK


WHKOOM
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
YEEEK!


CASUALTIES ONBOARD!
STEERING SYSTEM DAMAGED! SHIP YAWING TO PORT!
THRUST DOWN THIRTY PERCENT!
K-KAHM!
WHKOOM
WE--
I KNOW! I KNOW ALREADY!
THE TARGET IS DECELERATING!
CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE ON THE STERN DRIVE SYSTEM-- IMMOBILIZE THEM!!
?!

WH-WHAT THE ?!
WHBOOM

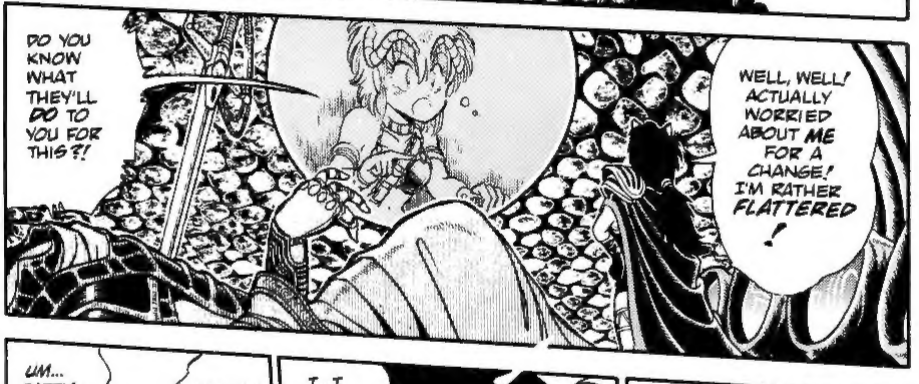
GOOD HEAVENS! ONE OF THEIR SHIPS JUST BLEW UP ALL BY ITSELF!!
WHAAAAT ?!

YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN DOING THINGS THE EASY WAY, DO YOU, KAHM?
BEEP
!

COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST GET A LITTLE BETTER AT IT?

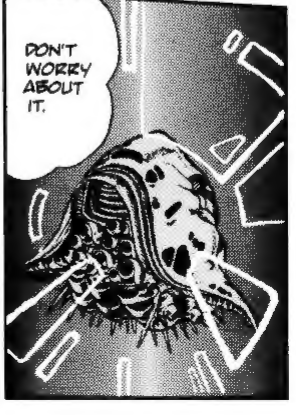
BATTIA !?!

GNGNGN
IT'S THE LAST CRUISER IN THE FORMATION! THEIR TARGET SENSOR'S LOCKED ONTO US!
WHO IS IT? WHO IS COMMANDING THAT SHIP?!


DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO TO YOU FOR THIS?!
WELL, WELL! ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME FOR A CHANGE! I'M RATHER FLATTERED!

UM... BATTIA...
EXCUSE ME...

I...I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY JOB TO HAUL KAHM'S REAR OUT OF TROUBLE!
NOW, JUST GET OUT OF HERE, KAHM!! YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
YOU'LL GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!
BATTIA!!